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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CANTERBURY, WHITSTABLE, HERNE BAY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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Issue No 76
Available from Wednesday,
February 25, 2009

**THE WRITINGS
ON THE WALL**

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KENT BOWLED OVER BY MASSIVE LOSSES

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ALL BLACK: Kiwi ace Michael Coman jets in to play for city side. Search 'Coman'.

ALSO INSIDE

COMPETITION PAGE 15
LETTERS PAGES 16-17
LEISURE PAGES 18-31
BUSINESS PAGE 49
SPORT PAGES 50-51

ISSN 1753-111-X



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Picture IGOR KUPCO



BOTTOM LINE HIT FOR SIX

Despite big crowds and appearances in the Twenty20 Cup final at Hampshire's Rose Bowl (pictured) and Friends Provident Trophy final at Lord's, Kent have been hit hard by the economic collapse and even the disappointing wet summer. For the latest on the club - see the sport section on pages 50-51.

BY CHRIS BRITCHER

A STRING of major off-the-field commercial blows have left Kent Cricket Club chiefs counting the cost as they recorded a £706,536 loss last year.

The figures, released on Monday, reveal the hefty pre-tax operating losses for the year to October 31, 2008.

It will come as the latest blow to the club which has already seen the recession smash for six its ambitious multi-million pound plans to redevelop its St Lawrence Ground on the Old Dover Road.

In addition to those plans being forced to be put on hold - having already cost the club a cool £1m in architects fees in obtaining planning permission - seven staff members were made redundant.

Club chairman George M Kennedy described the results as "extremely disappointing".

Ironically, the club had one of its more successful campaigns on the pitch, reaching the final of the two major domestic one-day competitions - although lost out in both - which helped smash budgets for match day revenue.

However, the season ended on a disappointing note when the club were relegated from the County Championship for the first time in its history.

The club's honorary treasurer, Alister Dunning, said: "At the time our budgets were prepared [in 2007] we, in common with people everywhere, did not foresee the extent of the economic downturn awaiting us.

"The final stage in securing planning permission was signed in January 2008, so by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Children's hospice Demelza unveils a new centre.
See the community channel and search 'Demelza'



2 Why were these people frozen in time in Canterbury?
See the community channel and search 'flash'



3 View the latest herd of wild horses released near Dover.
See the community channel and search 'horses'

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Charity rocks Ethan's world with gift horse

BY CHRIS BRITCHER

AT just five-years-old, little Ethan Gavin has fought many brave battles as he struggles to contend with Tuberous Sclerosis; an illness which has left him needing constant specialist care.

His condition causes a variety of disorders in his young body – leaving various major organs with disorders, as well as prompting epilepsy and communication difficulties; to the extent he can not communicate through speech.

But despite the difficulties, the much-loved little boy has developed a very special bond with a classic children's toy.

In the waiting room at London's Kings College Hospital Ethan has found precious joy and escape on the back of a beautiful rocking horse. He has spent hours on its back as he prepares for more gruelling treatment.

Such has been his love affair with the wooden beast, his family must now leave their home in Whitstable 45 minutes earlier so he can spend time on the horse before he undergoes his crucial treatment.

But on Thursday, little Ethan was made the happiest boy in the world when his wish of owning his very own rocking horse came true.

Courtesy of the Make-A-Wish-Foundation UK, a charity which looks to grant the wishes of children and young people fighting life-threatening illnesses, he was treated to a special day, culminating in being presented with his very own horse.

Initially picked up in a luxury limousine along with his mum, Jennifer, dad David and his brother Harry, he was first driven in style to the Windchimes Centre in Herne Bay.



IN THE SADDLE: Ethan Gavin with dad David (right) and horse maker Marc Stevenson (left) along with his rocking horse

There, he received VIP treatment and had fun playing in the sensory room and soft-play areas with his brother.

The family were then picked up and taken to Frankie and Benny's in Ashford for a slap-up lunch.

Then Ethan was driven to the Stevenson Brothers' Rocking Horse Shop in Bethersden to discover how rocking horses are made.

The highlight of the wish was when he was presented with his very own hand carved rocking horse to take home and treasure.

Ethan's parents said of the wish: "It was a very special day for Ethan. When we saw the rocking horse it just blew us all away."

Stevenson Brothers are world renowned for their horses and have provided many to the rich and famous and their children.

• To find out more about Make-A-Wish or to make a donation, visit www.make-a-wish.org.uk.

Ground plans stalled after club spent £1m on planning permission

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

time we hoped to sign the agreement with our partners the downturn was already starting to take effect.

"We spent around £1m on getting our planning permission through and this sum is shown in the capital account.

"This is money we have had to find, but that figure does not take into account the values of those three plots of land [the Bat and Ball field, practice area and potential hotel plot] which have considerably increased now that planning permission is in place."

In addition to plans for the ground stalling due to the economic downturn and collapse of the housing market – the plans rely heavily on generating money by selling the car park area opposite the Bat and Ball pub for housing – there have been other knock-on effects.

Expected sponsorship payments fell £100,000 short from the redevelopment partners and projected interest on capital receipts of around £125,000.

Shortfall

A damp summer hit 14 days play during home games, with a resultant drop in gate receipts, catering spend and profits from the club's shops.

Though the Spitfires reached two one-day finals – the Twenty20 Cup and Friends Provident Trophy – additional knockout games led to an increase in team bonuses, travel and hotel costs.

A decline in membership led to a £20,000 shortfall in budget.

Match receipts went up by £80,000 – some £60,000 ahead of budget – but that figure was eroded by player bonuses and added travel costs.

Health and Safety issues at Canterbury and Beckenham led to unbudgeted maintenance costs approaching £50,000 and, marketing income fell to £465,000 (£100,000 under budget) including a significant shortfall in profits from the club's retail outlets.

Players' salaries of £1.49m exceeded the budget by £130,000 while coaching costs increasing by £12,000.

The club responded to the recession by restructuring its management and marketing departments with the overall loss of seven jobs. The club's bank borrowing has also been restructured.

Club chairman, George M Kennedy, said: "The results are extremely disappointing. However, I promised we would examine our budget for this year more accurately to reflect our business needs. That budget has been agreed by committee and should result in an outcome closer to break even."

Kent members will discuss the figures at the club's AGM at the St Lawrence Ground on March 16.



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Time capsule clue set in stone at cathedral

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

A TREASURE hunt leading to a time capsule buried deep within a field in Herne has been planted into the very pinnacle of Canterbury Cathedral.

And it is hoped it will not be uncovered for another 500 years.

The mystery for future historians to puzzle over is being built into a pinnacle of Canterbury Cathedral by Chestfield Rotary Club.

Following a donation of £750 to the Save Canterbury Cathedral Appeal, the rotarians were invited to install a time capsule 40 metres above the ground in a pinnacle which was repaired on Friday.

But the club decided they needed more room than was available behind the stone work so they decided to create a historical treasure hunt instead.

A glass paperweight has been placed behind the stonework, and on it are engraved co-ordinates to a farmer's field in Herne where the time capsule will be buried.

It is estimated the pinnacle will be due for repair again in about 500 years time, at which point, club members hope, future stonemasons will uncover the cut-glass clue.

A protective metal wall in front of the paperweight will ensure masons working 500 years from now won't accidentally smash it.

The contents of the time capsule the co-ordinates will lead to have yet to be decided, but Rotary Club members are adamant that they will do all they can to make sure the historic artefacts are preserved.



PUZZLE: Rotary Club president Andrew Brealy with the glass engraved plaque now set into the stonemasonry at the cathedral

Club member Hilary Brian said: "We have a new member who has been researching this and we've found that if you are going to do something like this, you have to do it properly."

"You can't just write on paper; ink from biro is slightly acidic and over time will eat away the paper. And tins will just rust away."

"If we want it to be found in 500 years, you need to pump out the air and fill it with nitrogen to preserve it, in the same way as display cases in museums."

The club has been quoted £500 for a suitable capsule.

Mrs Brian said: "We are still thinking about exactly what we are going to put in it, but a few members have written something about who they are, so people in the future can discover what different people were like now."

"Writing for people in 500 years time required a change in style. I tried to write mine as if they knew nothing about the world as it is now, which they probably won't."

Safe return from Afghanistan for band of brothers

THREE brothers from Whitstable have all returned home this week after completing gruelling tours of duty on the frontline in Afghanistan.

Privates Lewis, Liam and Sam Arthey – aged 22, 20 and 18 respectively – are all part of the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment.

And, more remarkably, they formed part of an incredible band of brothers in the regiment, comprising of seven brothers from three different families.

The Arthey boys have a history with the regiment, with father Trevor – who now lives in Herne Bay – previously serving as a warrant officer (2nd Class).

What's more, the trio will soon be joined on active duty by their step-brother Ryan, 17, who has just started his training – although he will be with a different platoon.

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Marlowe Theatre enters its final month. Search 'Marlowe'

Campaign for 40mph limit on road a success

ROAD campaigners have won their battle to have a 40mph speed limit imposed on the A257 near Canterbury.

Kent County Council's Joint Transportation Board recommended a speed limit on the A257 at a meeting last week.

When the policy is implemented, a 40mph speed limit will be imposed from the Casino garage in Bramling, all the way through several villages to Canterbury.

Ickham parish chairman, Geoff Preston, speaking to the board, said the whole community was united in wanting a safer road and they took their life in their hands whenever they entered at the Cherville Road junction.

Ickham parish council handed in a petition with more than 100 names which had been gathered in just four days prior to the meeting.

Councillor Brian Staley, who has campaigned for a speed limit for the last four years, led the delegation of villagers to discuss the proposals.

He said: "It would be a serious dereliction of duty if the Highways Authority waited for another fatality before acting."

"This road was as dangerous as any in east Kent."

Student figures set to soar amid economic slump

THE global financial crisis is having an unexpected knock-on effect – as universities in the district see applications for courses rocket.

And, perhaps not surprisingly, it is courses in economics which are seeing the biggest rises – with some leaping up by a number-crunching 61 per cent.

The University of Kent says it has seen a 19.2 per cent rise in applications for courses starting next September.

And Canterbury Christ Church University says its applications have risen by 11 per cent.

Nationally, there have been a record-breaking number of people wanting to begin a degree this September, with applications up 7.8 per cent.

Steven Holdcroft, head of information, recruitment and admissions at Kent, said: "This is a positive result for the university. There is only one other institution that has seen a larger than

us increase and that's Portsmouth.

"It is quite interesting. There has been resurgence in some of the science areas, which previously were not doing very well."

"Maths applications are up 32 per cent, bio science up 29 per cent, fiscal science up 16 per cent and economics up 61 per cent."

"There has been a focus in the news and people are interested in how the economy works."

"People recognise the university has very good research and teaching facilities but also because market conditions have generated more interest in these areas."

The weak pound also seems to have boosted applications from overseas students with a 30 per cent increase reported.

Mr Holdcroft added: "Given the global impact of the financial crisis we may have expected them to decrease but it does not appear to be impacting on international students."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Find out more about air quality improvements

A PLAN showing how Canterbury council intends to tackle air quality issues in the Broad Street/Military Road area of the city has gone out to public consultation.

The area was declared an Air Quality Management Area in May 2006 because the air quality did not meet the standard set by the government due to the level of nitrogen dioxide produced by traffic.

The plan is at www.canterbury.gov.uk/airquality, or pop into a library or council office.

Enjoy a musical highlight with popular concert

CANTERBURY Cathedral will play host to one of the highlights of the University of Kent's cultural calendar next month.

The university will stage its popular Colyer-Fergusson concert at the cathedral on March 7 at 7.30pm.

Tickets range in price from £8 to £22 from Canterbury Bookings Box Office, 12/13 Sun Street, The Buttermarket, 01227 378188. Or the university on 01227 827335; email musictickets@kent.ac.uk.

Carry your card to claim a discount in local stores

HERNE Bay town centre chiefs are distributing 20,000 loyalty cards to residents in a bid to encourage shopping locally.

And this Friday the official launch of the long-discussed Bay Card takes place. Organised by Herne Bay Town Management and Canterbury council, the cards are being delivered to homes and made available to pick-up from shops and businesses.

Present your card at participating retailers to receive a discount or promotion.

Supervision order for continuing to claim cash

A HERNE Bay man who failed to inform the council of a change of circumstances affecting his benefit has pleaded guilty to fraud.

Stephen Keating, 21, of Pear Tree Road, appeared at Canterbury Magistrates Court last Wednesday. He was sentenced to a 100 hours community punishment order, given a 12-month supervision order and told to pay £100 in costs.

The court heard that Keating received an overpayment of benefit of £1,332.86.

Choir in good voice for tour of the States

THE world famous Canterbury Cathedral Choir will be visiting the United States for the first time in ten years this spring.

The choir is one of Europe's foremost choral groups, and under the direction of master of the choristers David Flood, the choristers have a packed schedule ahead of them.

They will be arriving in Chicago on April 13 and performing nine concerts in churches and cathedrals across the east coast and mid-west of America, including dates in Chicago, Indianapolis, Atlanta, New York and Philadelphia.

The last performance of the tour will be at the National Cathedral, in Washington DC on April 26, before the choir flies home the next day.

David Flood said: "Visiting the United States is a very special experience for the choir. It is always good to meet up with old friends and to make new ones."

"For this visit, we have put together a programme of church music – with an American

BY GARETH ARNOLD

flavour at times – which we hope everyone will enjoy."

Music is an integral part of worship at Canterbury Cathedral and there is great pride in the music performed at the services, a tradition which the cathedral has upheld for centuries.

The choral tradition at Canterbury evolved from the chanting of medieval monks during services at the cathedral.

This evolved into the cathedral's first boys' choir in the 13th century and the establishment of a separate choir school in 1540.

Today the choir consists of 12 lay clerks, men who are professional singers but also work locally, and 30 choristers, boys aged eight to 13 who go to school in Canterbury and live in the precincts of the cathedral.

The visit coincides with the 500th anniversary of the coronation of King Henry VIII, during whose reign the Canterbury Choir School was established. The coronation took place on April 21, 1509 – one of the choir's



Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

IN TUNE: Canterbury Cathedral has a strong choral tradition, stretching back as far as the 13th century

few days off in their packed tour schedule.

As part of its £50 million fund-raising campaign, Canterbury Cathedral is working to raise £7m to ensure the survival of its great choral tradition.

The money raised will be for endowments for choristers and £4m for refurbishing the cathedral's 18th century organ.

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Watch firefighters scale the heights of cathedral for emergency practice

RESIDENTS watched in amazement last week as fire crews flocked to the cathedral. But there was no need for panic as the emergency services staged a dramatic fire drill around the World Heritage Site.

More than 20 engines from across the county joined in, and fire crews got to test out super-strength hoses from Whitstable, designed to tackle floods – and draw huge amounts of water to help in extinguishing blazes.

A crew from our free broadband TV website

www.yourkenttv.co.uk were on hand as ladders were put up against the ancient building and men clambered to reach the tallest towers.

The drill was essential in case of a real fire. Not only is the building of huge historic and cultural value, but it also houses a priceless collection of books and artefacts which would need protecting from the ravages of a blaze.

To see the clip, simply log-on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'cathedral'.

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BEAUTIFUL: The green burial site will be given over to wild flowers as a light, pleasant area to visit

Rest in peace in an eco-friendly field of flowers

YOU'VE heard of environmentally friendly living – and now your death can be kind to the world we live in too, as details were revealed of the first green burial site in the district.

The site, to open in the spring, will offer 800 graves in what Canterbury council says will be a quiet meadow with trees and shrubs dotted amongst swathes of wild flowers.

Green burial refers to burials which are as ecologically sustainable as possible. Coffins must be fully biodegradable, without fabric linings, metal or plastic fittings or treated wood, and no tributes are to be left at the gravesides, especially not cellophane-wrapped flowers.

No grave markers are allowed at the site, not even trees, which council officers say must be kept well spaced to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

A council spokesman said: "It is not the intention to plant trees on graves or to add too many trees to the area.

"Trees grown too close together are not sustainable; the area will become dark due to the canopies, and therefore grass and wildflowers will not grow. It is intended this will be a light, sunny area, that's pleasant to visit."

Environmentally sustainable measures even

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

extend to the way bodies are prepared for burial, and green embalming fluid must be used, as well as a shroud made only of natural materials such as linen or wool.

Even the straps used by the funeral directors to lower the coffin must be biodegradable.

And mourners and visitors will be encouraged to reach the new cemetery by public transport. The exact location of the site has not yet been revealed.

Bad weather last summer saw the scheme delayed as council contractors could not do the necessary landscaping and planting.

But now the site is almost ready to open, with a suitable ceremony to mark the occasion planned later this year.

Green burial is growing in popularity in Britain, with the first dedicated site opening just 16 years ago in Scotland.

Now there are more than 200 sites across Britain, with many more green plots set aside in conventional cemeteries.

Until now, people living in the Canterbury district wanting a green burial would have had to use a limited number of designated plots in either Canterbury or Whitstable cemeteries.

Cremated remains can be scattered at the site, but will only be interred in an existing family grave.

yourcanterbury NEWS IN BRIEF

Stars out for Red Nose fun

A HOST of faces from CBBC will become park keepers for a day in a special Comic Relief version of hit children's TV show Roar.

Filmed at both Howletts in Bekesbourne and its sister park Port Lympne, series four began its run on BBC Two on Monday, for 25 one-hour long episodes.

And on March 13 there will be a special Red Nose Day version of the show. In addition to regular hosts Rani Price and Matt Skilton Tracey Beaker star Dani Harmer and wacky TV presenter, Ross Lee, became zoo keepers.

The regular series of Roar gives a rare insight into some of the world's most unique and endangered animals. In an action-packed new series the crew travel to the Gabon to follow three hand-reared baby gorillas that were raised at Howletts and were released into the wild last summer.

This series witnesses the birth of a baby bongo and a litter of red river hog piglets.

Bar application rejected

PLANS to open a three-storey lounge bar trading until 3am in St Margaret's Street have been rejected by Canterbury council.

The street is already the subject of a saturation order which imposes stringent licensing rules on opening new premises.

Canterbury businessman Stephen Cross and a team of hospitality experts attempted to convince members of the licensing team that The Rooms would cause minimal impact to residents. But members failed to be convinced the 200-capacity venue would not have a detrimental impact on the busy area.

Aspinall allegations on TV

CHANNEL 4 claimed to have lifted the lid on John Aspinall on Monday in a special programme as part of its Toffis and Crims series.

The Real Casino Royale looked at the man behind two of Kent's best known tourist attractions, and who lived in a large house within the grounds of his Howletts park in Bekesbourne.

The show claims the man who made his fortune through gambling allegedly teamed up with shady characters to further line his pockets – claims which are angrily denied by his family.

Mr Aspinall died in 2000.

Appearing at the Winter Gardens

www.leisureforce.co.uk

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MARCH 2009

Friday 6th & Saturday 7th March
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"The American Dream"

Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th March
Jackyll & Hyde

Sunday 15th March
The All Stars Band
"20th Annual Charity Concert"

Friday 20th March
LEMAR in Concert

Saturday 21st March
Bjorn Again

APRIL 2009

Saturday 4th April
Disco Inferno

Sunday 5th April
The Enemy in Concert

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th April
Thanet Beer Festival

Saturday 18th April
Essence of Ireland

Sunday 19th April
Sooty In Space

MAY 2009

Wednesday 6th May
Rob Brydon plus support

Monday 11th May
Leon Jackson and Same Difference in Concert

Sunday 17th May
Rhydian Roberts in Concert

Tuesday 26th – Saturday 30th May
"A Night On The Town"
M.O.S Variety

JUNE 2009

Sunday 7th June
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Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st June
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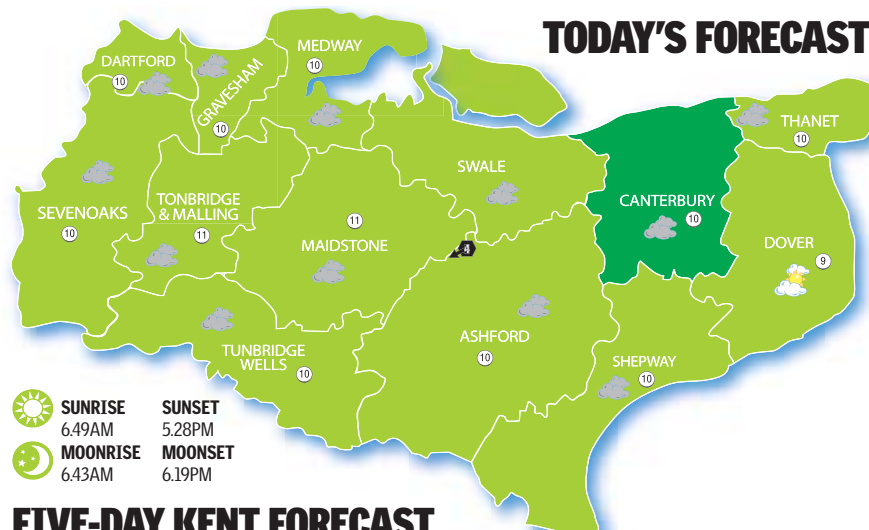
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SUNSET 5.28PM
MOONRISE 6.43AM
MOONSET 6.19PM

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	11°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	Gravesend	12°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	11°C
Canterbury	8°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Maidstone	11°C	11°C	10°C	11°C	10°C
Chatham	9°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	Ramsgate	8°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	9°C
Dartford	12°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	Rochester	9°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	10°C
Dover	8°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	8°C	Sevenoaks	10°C	10°C	9°C	10°C	9°C
Faversham	9°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	Sittingbourne	9°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	10°C
Folkestone	8°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	8°C	Tonbridge	11°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	10°C
Gillingham	9°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	Tun Wells	11°C	11°C	11°C	11°C	10°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:52pm	6.0m
	Sunday	3:25pm	5.9m
Dover	Saturday	12:51pm	6.5m
	Sunday	1:24pm	6.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:57pm	7.7m
	Sunday	1:33pm	7.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:21pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:54pm	4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:42pm	5.7m
	Sunday	3:15pm	5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:38pm	5.2m
	Sunday	3:09pm	5.1m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	7°C	Madrid	15°C
Athens	7°C	New York	6°C
Barcelona	15°C	Paris	8°C
Beijing	0°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	27°C
Cape Town	28°C	Tenerife	19°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	15°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	2°C
Las Palmas	19°C	Wellington	20°C



DESIGN: Neil Bottle's work will go on show in London

Artist's latest work is cut from Middle Eastern cloth

A TOP London gallery is hosting an exhibition of work by celebrated Canterbury textile artist Neil Bottle.

Mr Bottle, a senior lecturer at the University for the Creative Arts in Canterbury, has put together a new exhibition of printed textiles inspired by the landscapes of the Middle East. It will be opening at the Contemporary Applied Arts venue in London, next month.

The pieces in the collection, which range from large wall hangings to wearable items such as scarves, were all produced by Mr Bottle, who was inspired by a secondment at the University of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates.

He said: "I was offered the opportunity to work in the Middle East to help set up a new fashion textiles design programme and found that the intensity of light and the plethora of rich colours had an enormous impact on my own work."

The collection is printed on silk and features rich shades of claret, rust, aqua and deep blue. His exhibition, entitled the Focus Exhibition Twenty Years In The Making, will run at Contemporary Applied Arts in Percy Street, London from March 20 to May 2.

For further information visit: [Contemporary Applied Arts](http://ContemporaryAppliedArts.org.uk) 020 7436 2344 www.caa.org.uk.



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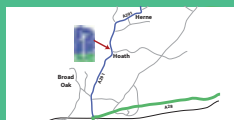
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QUESTION & ANSWER

MIRANDA HAYES



Q How did you get involved with Action with Communities in Rural Kent?

A Pure fluke. Before I joined I was practice manager for a veterinary surgeons. I was looking for a job for my sister who had recently moved down from London, I saw an advert for a deputy director and thought that it looked really interesting, so I applied and had an interview. I got a parking ticket whilst I was in there, and I then got a phone call from the director that evening offering me the job.

Q What is the main aim of the organisation?

A Our aims are to ensure that rural communities have the facilities, tools and skills they need to retain their self sufficiency and sustainability. We do this through a number of ways, offering help and advice to local parish councils, particularly if they want to undertake a parish plan. We support and work with community halls, ensuring that the local shop is stocked and supported so it can survive. We work with housing associations and the local authority to provide housing for people that is affordable. We also offer practical help and funding advice for parish plans and community groups.

Q What does your role involve?

A My role is mainly office based, I administer three funding schemes. The EON Scheme in Medway, the ESF Community Grant Fund

and the COMMA Fund. I also line-manage five members of staff and help them to achieve their individual project targets. I do all of the finance, including salaries and project funding returns. I organise the annual Village of the Year competition and I prepare the end of year audit. I generally oversee the office and its associated equipment.

Q Which areas of Kent do you think need the most community support and advice?

A Most people would answer east Kent as there is a perception that east Kent is more deprived than the west of the county. Whilst I understand the reasoning behind this, there are areas in west Kent which do need help and it does get a bit difficult when trying to fund individual projects which are trying to support those people who are deprived in west Kent.

Q Do you find your job rewarding?

A I most certainly do. Having a community undertake a parish plan and actually see some funding for the projects that the community has identified is fantastic. I also love the people I work with, they are so committed to helping communities to help themselves.

Q What is the hardest thing about it?

A Having to turn down a funding bid and not having enough hours in the day.

Q What hopes do you have for the year ahead for Action with Communities in Rural Kent?

A Action with Communities has been in existence since 1923. I hope that the organisation will go from strength to strength and that we will continue to find new ways to support small local communities.

Q What do you get up to outside of work?

A I am married with four children, two of whom have left home. The youngest are ten and eight and they take up a lot of our time, we organise lifts to football, horse-riding, Stagecoach, cricket and piano lessons.

We also currently have three girls that we have previously looked after and have now adopted as our own children, and although they are now 23, 21 and 20, we can't get them to leave for love nor money! We are also registered foster carers and currently have two boys from Afghanistan living with us. Ian and I also support a couple of young parents. I have a large family and I enjoy spending time with my brothers and sisters. I go to the gym and swim three times a week. I love to cook and when I get home at night you can find me for the next two hours in the kitchen preparing about four different meals, some of which uses Halal meat. I don't get to watch much telly, so I indulge my love of books and am normally found at about 10pm either in the bath or curled up in bed with a book.

Q & A

Reporter **Marijke Cox** talks to Miranda Hayes, deputy director of Action With Communities in Rural Kent, about the organisation and what it can provide those living in the county and her out of work commitments

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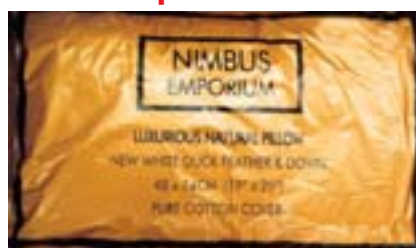


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Plight of newsreader's wife highlights a severe shortage Dementia care boosted but now we need more

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

PEOPLE who care for loved ones with dementia are to benefit from a further eight specialist nurses this year.

But with an estimated 22,000 people across the county suffering from the condition, there still will not be enough, a spokeswoman from the For Dementia charity said.

The charity provides Admiral Nurses, who are trained to help the carers of people with dementia.

Their specialised work made headlines last week after former newsreader John Suchet spoke out about his wife, Bonnie, who has dementia, and the invaluable support he gets from his Admiral Nurse, Ian.

In Kent, there are just five of these nurses working with families and carers of people with a form of the debilitating condition.

Jon Parsons, associate director for older people's mental health in east Kent for the Kent and Medway Social Care NHS Partnership Trust, said the trust was now recruiting an additional eight of the nurses to work across the county.

Nationally there are only 60 Admiral Nurses working, compared to the thousands required to care for those in need, despite the county faring better than many places.

For Dementia's Jacqui Wharrad said: "We have been very successful in getting funding in Kent and Medway.

"Kent is very lucky, but the numbers are



SUCHET: TV star's moving account of life with his wife

huge. There are still not enough. The Government's national dementia strategy [published this month] says there should be a dementia advisor for every person. That is not going to happen overnight.

"It is good in Kent. We are already doing what the Government wants us to do, but we want more.

"If you are going to provide quality support for all the people with this disease, we are going to need more and more nurses and resources."

In the UK there are 700,000 people with dementia, which is an umbrella term and covers Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia and rarer forms. This figure is expected to increase to 1.7million by 2050.

Mr Suchet spoke about his nurse this week, saying: "When I see him I pour my heart out to him.

"He encourages, advises, and most important of all, keeps telling me not to feel guilty. Guilt, the natural condition of the carer, for wanting to run away, wanting to have fun, wanting to form relationships, wanting to do this and that, and resenting the fact that you can't."

Author Terry Pratchett has also spoken publicly about dementia after he was diagnosed in 2007 with a rare form of Alzheimer's, which he famously described as an "embuggerance".

Ms Wharrad said putting dementia into the spotlight was helpful: "John Suchet has really done a lot of good for people in his position."

She added: "Obviously the number of nurses is no where near the number of people with dementia. There is a big mismatch between what is needed and what is out there."

The trust's Mr Parsons said the nurses provided a "fantastic service" for the carers and were helping the trust meet the directives in the Government's recent dementia strategy.



DEATH AND TAXES: But who pays in the end?

Paupers' funerals on increase with fewer coffin up

TAXPAYERS throughout Kent have spent more than £370,000 on other people's funerals in the last five years.

Councils have an obligation to pay for a service when a person dies outside of hospital and there are no friends or family available or willing to pick up the tab.

Between 2003/04 and 2007/08 there were about 400 "paupers' funerals" in Kent. The average cost is £944, which equates to a total of about £377,600 in this county.

Our sister paper Kent on Sunday obtained the figures from 12 of 15 local authorities in Kent. The remaining three – Ashford, Dartford and Thanet – were unable to respond in time.

Paul Edwards, bereavement and registration services manager at Medway council, explained the paupers' funeral process.

He said: "It's usually for bodies washed up in the river or poor old people living alone. It's a crude way to put it, but the purpose of our obligation under the Public Health Act is so bodies aren't left in the streets."

There have already been 12 services in Medway during 2008/09 compared with just two in 2007/08. Mr Edwards said: "There has been a sudden increase, which may be because of the economic climate."

A survey by the LGA showed that 61 per cent of environmental health officers questioned felt the national rise in paupers' funerals was because family and friends were unwilling to meet the cost, while 50 per cent put it down to relatives being unable to pay.

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Music to young ears

Organisation giving children the chance to learn and play

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A COUNTYWIDE music organisation is undergoing a transformation to grab the attention of more budding musicians in Kent.

Despite having taught about 6,000 youngsters and adults various musical instruments and vocal lessons during the last 60 years since it was formed, many of our readers will probably not have heard of Kent Music.

But a new management team at the organisation's headquarters in Hastings Road, Maidstone, led by recently-appointed chief executive Peter Bolton, is hoping to change this.

Mr Bolton said: "It is our mission to offer young people the chance to play what they are listening to. We want to be help if someone comes to us and wants to form a rock band, or play electric guitar. "Kent Music has been running for 60 years and now is the time for a change, to bring it up-to-date and find out what Kent wants and needs."

The independent organisation, which is funded by a grant from Kent County Council and student fees, has already started to connect with a wider audience by hosting large-scale events at local schools.

Staff at the Maidstone site recently hosted a Sound Factory with more than 90 students from Maidstone Girls Grammar School.

The pupils were allowed to try out musical instruments they hadn't played before and come together at the end to put on a show.

Project development manager Laura Callaghan said: "Sound Factory gives pupils who have never played an instrument before a chance to try it without the pressure and just have fun."

"Our day with MGS was very successful, and from our feedback forms about 75 per cent of the



SOUND ENVIRONMENT: Young musicians play under the guidance of a Kent Music teacher at a Sound Factory day

group rated the day as either good or excellent."

Other initiatives include county music groups, a summer school being held at Benenden School and the forthcoming Music Plus countywide programme, which is Kent Music's answer to the Government-funded youth scheme Wider Opportunities.

The aim of this programme is to get 5,000 primary school children in years three to six to receive a year's free music tuition by 2011.

Brothers Matthew and Paul Deacon, from Mangravel in Maidstone, have been learning at Kent Music from a young age and take weekly violin lessons with teacher Katherine Tindall.

Matthew, 12, said: "I enjoy the fun of playing, and our teacher Katherine is really good and funny."

Paul, ten, added: "I enjoy playing the violin. I haven't been playing as long as my brother but I am really good, better than him I reckon."

Kent Music offers lessons in a range of instruments and vocally in schools, and at their sites on a one-to-one basis or in groups.

• For more information on Kent Music call 01622 691212 or visit www.kent-music.com.

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Kent Music helps youngsters to learn how to play their instruments

Rail firm slammed over plans to axe services to London

RAIL company Southeastern has come under fire after it emerged services into London from Kent would be reduced when its flagship high-speed line goes live.

MPs and passenger groups are angry that commuters are facing soaring ticket prices, higher than anywhere in the country, to pay for a service that only 15 per cent of passengers will be able to use.

From December when the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) High Speed 1 comes into service, journey times from Ashford International to London St Pancras will be slashed by 37 minutes.

But Roger Gale, the Tory MP for Thanet North, said in east Kent the journey to London will take longer than it did by steam train in 1936 – and at a premium fare.

This week also saw the publication of a major new study by the rail watchdog Passenger Focus, which found British commuters, especially in London and the South East, were paying more on rail fares than anywhere else in Europe.

Problems

Mr Gale has written to the transport minister Lord Adonis about problems facing constituents and rail passengers across Kent.

He said the fast trains, which will speed to London at 120mph according to Southeastern, will travel at less than 60mph between London and Margate and less than 70mph between London and Canterbury.

The seven trains currently stopping each morning at Margate, Birchington and Herne Bay to Victoria will be cut to two from December and services will also be reduced to Cannon Street and London Bridge.

A Southeastern spokesman said: "In some of the smaller towns they do get fewer services but this is counter-balanced against the increase in services elsewhere."

"It is only a high-speed service from Ashford to London St Pancras, from destinations on the Kent coast trains operate on the existing track."

"We have never pretended it is going to be an option for everybody."

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BREAK TIME

Young college chefs can stand the heats

CANTERBURY College will host the regional final of the Kent and East Sussex Rotary Young Chef Competition 2009 after the heats in Sussex.

Chef and ex-Canterbury College student Damon Dalmedo, from The Barn in Rainham, was among the judges putting the ten competitors through their paces.

Students had two hours to cook a three-course meal, designed from their own menu and based on a budget of just £12.

The judges had 11 categories to mark, including healthy choices, planning and hygiene, presentation and taste.

The results were extremely close, with Tom Childs, 16, from Broadstairs taking first place, followed by Lewis Jackson, 16, from the Isle of Sheppey.

Mr Dalmedo said: "Their organisation was so good, with excellent attention to detail, and they were very confident."

This is the second year Rotary Clubs across the UK have sponsored young chefs to take up the culinary challenge. Nigel Stratten of Tonbridge Rotary Club, who organised this part of the competition, was very impressed by "how good it all looked, and the very high standard", remarking that he would love to have their culinary skills.

The finalists will now go on to compete in the regional finals, to be held at Canterbury College on March 7.



Promising future beckons with university Gateway

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

THE police, nurses and teachers of the future got their first taste of the professions at Canterbury Christ Church University this month.

Pupils from Canterbury High School, Chaucer Technology School and St Anselm's Catholic School are taking part in the university's Gateway programme which aims to encourage more young people to go to university and increase the chances of them finding their dream job.

Dr Kathy Gooch, the university's academic lead for the project, said: "This programme is a brilliant way of providing a taste of university life to young people who may not otherwise consider themselves eligible for higher education. As well as presenting them a sense of what a university environment could offer and some of the resources available, it also gives an insight into possible future careers and an idea of what training providers have to offer."

Students who took part in the policing session learned about the principles of the law in England and Wales as well as classification of offences, hearsay evidence, the power of arrest, human rights and the right to free legal advice.

Pupils working with the university's health and social care team focused on life support, adult nursing, speech therapy, child health and public health. And sixth formers interested in a teaching career looked at how digital media can be utilised in the classroom for



WORKING FUTURE: Chaucer Technology School pupils who took part in the Gateway programme

learning, taking photographs around campus and looking at how their images could be used as a teaching resource.

The scheme also includes a mentoring programme, where specially selected Canterbury Christ Church University students work with their respective groups to talk about future careers and training. At the end of the project, the mentors, known as guidance students, will

work with their groups to help them take their interest further. The mentors will talk about how to pursue what they have learned and explain the training they will need to secure a career in their chosen profession. They will particularly focus on whether the young people will consider higher education as an option or a future career in one of the public service professions.

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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Canterbury...

Who needs birds when we can fly away into the sun?

SO we know Boris Johnson's solution to the country's air traffic woes is to build an island in the middle of the Thames Estuary. Well, he already has one. It's called Sheppey.

There's no need to go to all the trouble of reclaiming hundreds of acres of land from the sea bed using giant floating excavators and massive barges full of ballast and concrete. Why not flatten Sheppey?

No one is going to miss the architectural splendours of Leysdown. There are already enough caravans there to house all the workers.

Sheppey has a long history linked to aviation. Was it not the site of some of the first ever experimental flights in the country? What could be a more fitting place on which to build Britain's aviation future of a gleaming space-age terminal than the place it all began?

OK, so you might lose a few curlews and oystercatchers and upset some birdwatchers, but

they are the sort of people who like spending miserable holidays in the UK. What about the rest of us, who need to get abroad and get some rays on to our vitamin D deficient bodies?

As we saw when that plane ditched in the Hudson, birds and planes don't mix. Anyone would think they invented flying instead of just evolving into it by accident. They're only dumb lizards that sprouted wings after millions of years of throwing themselves at the ground until they missed.

County council leader Paul Carter says we already have a top class international airport at Manston. He may be right; many say it could be the new Stanstead or Luton.

My brother is all for it, despite living under the flight path. I keep telling him he won't like it once the 747s start flying over his garden but I think he's a bit of a plane spotter at heart and they're worse than the birdwatchers.

There is also Lydd Airport or Ashford International as it likes to call itself, which is lobbying for massive expansion. By the way,

calling something 'international' doesn't suddenly make it something to rival JFK or Heathrow. Any port is international. Whitstable harbour is 'international' if you head out in the right direction.

So we already have three sites in Kent for massive airports. I say let's have more. We could have the one that was going to be built at Cliffe as well. Let's build another in the sea just for the hell of it.

Of course we could just stop flying everywhere rather than wipe-out more of the countryside or ruin the sea. Fish have rights too don't they? What about all those flat fish who will be flattened in the name of progress: the noble Dab, the majestic Flounder, the Dover Sole. Don't these fine creatures deserve our protection as well as the kittiwake or the dormouse?

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Dover Fairtrade Steering Group are welcoming a cotton producer from Cameroon in Dover at an event during Fairtrade Fortnight to share their experiences of Fairtrade. This group has been campaigning since 2006 to earn Dover the title of Fairtrade Town*, which it has successfully achieved this week.

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TALK TIME

LOUISE HUDSON

Louise Hudson, administrator for Red List Live, the new festival coming to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, discusses plans for the music extravaganza



What is Red List Live?

Red List Live is more than just a music festival, it's a whole ethos. We want to raise money and awareness for the world's most endangered animals by creating massive events that the public can share in and enjoy. Our first festival is taking place June 19-21 and will play host to big name bands, DJs and comedians, alongside local unsigned bands, theatre, graffiti art, skating and much more. Our ultimate aim is to raise £1million over the next five years for The Aspinall Foundation, the animal charity we support.

What do you do?

I primarily support the festival director, but I also assist the rest of the team; this means my job is full of variety – on a normal day I could be doing anything from setting up meetings to listening to cool bands, to planning a photo shoot with the gorillas. It can be hectic as we're always working to deadlines, but it's really exciting to be part of such a great project and create the kind of event my friends would enjoy.

What's it like to be part of the Red List Live team?

It's a lot of hard work but also a lot of fun. Our team is made up of ten really strong individuals who each bring different areas of expertise to the group. We've been really busy since October making preparations for the festival, and there's a great atmosphere in the little Portacabin we call home.

• Tickets are available from www.redlistlive.com at the earlybird rate of £99 for the weekend.

YOUR LETTERS



Council should come clean with costs

With Canterbury council making massive increases in council tax, isn't there a simpler alternative?

Seek more funding from central Government or Kent County Council (KCC) – or sack under-performing senior staff.

To suggest that the public should pay for increases simply to maintain existing council services is absurdly one-sided.

I am standing as Independent Green MP for South Thanet and will be investigating the possibilities of a merger of the failed councils at Thanet and Dover with Canterbury to create an East Kent Council with reduced headcount, costs and improved services. And direct funding from KCC and its £2.2bn budget.

The age of big government and an unaccountable one is over.

Will Colin Carmichael also now produce under Freedom of Information and prominently publish on the Canterbury council website home page a list of depart-



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ments, headcount and salaries to evaluate the value of the council and its services we pay for?

I've written to the Department of Communities and Local Government calling for such information to be compulsory for

better governance.

With 900 staff in Canterbury and 500 staff in Thanet, just 15 miles away, we have unnecessary bureaucracy and failure.

Tim Carbutt
By email

A new perspective on the tax hikes

Surely the main thing is that Kent County Council's slice of the council tax is not going to be that significant rather than purely the Canterbury piece of the pie?

The increase proposed for those of us who live in the district, as a result of the city's price hike, will be minimal. Had the police and KCC decided to up it so much then the impact would have been very much greater.

I believe the city council is right to push the rise to the limit to try and compensate for the economic situation with regard interest payments lost on investments etc.

We pay a handful of pounds and get a high level of service. I know it's very easy to knock the city council and what it does, but I think we should bear in mind there are many, many local councils close to our district where the standard just is nowhere near what we have come to expect and, indeed, demand.

I'm not just supporting the council either. I don't agree with the politics of the ruling party at all, but I do think we need to get things in perspective and not just knee-jerk react to the prospect of the inevitable annual increase in our council tax bill.

H Turner
by email

Five per cent rise can't be justified

How can the city council justify an increase of nearly five per cent in this current economic climate? How can they justify lifting it?

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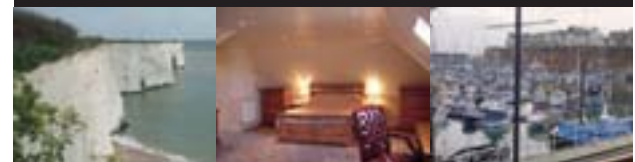
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and blaming poorly judged investments in Icelandic banks?

While there must be some short-falls somewhere given the interest rates, surely there are savings the council must be making elsewhere? I think it is disgraceful.

Peter Smith
Sturry

Group frozen as shoppers left bemused

SHoppers in the city centre were left scratching their heads on Saturday afternoon when a dozen sound and light 100 people along the city centre.

Firefight cathedral practice

A MAJOR fire drill at Canterbury Cathedral passed off smoothly on Monday night.

Cold impact of city street performance

I was walking through the city centre on Valentine's Day and witnessed the 'frozen in time' piece of performing art you reported on last week.

It was certainly quite entertaining and, initially at least, intriguing. However, I cannot help but think this sort of performance has long since lost its clout and ability to truly impact on our lives.

You only have to turn the TV on for ten minutes these days to see that T-Mobile advert with everyone dancing at Liverpool St Station in London to see how this sort of thing

has gone from occasional – and with impact – to frequent and therefore, without impact.

I applaud the efforts of the Kent Youth Theatre, and admit it lightened up the city centre – but surely this sort of thing is on its last legs now?

J Asquith
by email

Youth Theatre made shopping fascinating

Please send my congratulations to the Kent Youth Theatre for their 'strike a pose' performance in the city centre last Saturday.

I was shopping there with my daughter and her young family and we were all transfixed by the sight of all of these people apparently frozen in time. It worked extremely well and my grandchildren found it completely fascinating.

How so many of them managed to keep a straight face while shoppers looked on bemused and confused I have no idea!

Mrs J Mumford
Canterbury

No surprise dogs gnawed through door

What a terribly sad story it was about the escaped dogs from Howletts. But surely the idea of dogs – wild or domestic – gnawing through wooden doors is hardly

going to surprise most people is it?

I invite anyone to look at the state of my kitchen door to see just how much damage a dog with an appetite for destruction can cause. And he gets regular walks and a big garden to play in!

Name and address withheld
Canterbury

Dhole lot of reasons were unsatisfactory

Howlett's animal director Neil Spooner's explanation of why dholes escaped from their enclosure and then why some were shot dead rather than successfully recaptured was totally unsatisfactory.

He seems surprised that a pack of large wild dogs managed to chew through a door made of wood in a bid for freedom.

Even though dholes are generally burrowing animals it would be patently obvious to most people that for the purposes of security, a dog's powerful jaws and a wooden gate were highly incompatible.

Then for Neil Spooner to let police marksmen kill these beautiful canines rather than to sedate them with tranquilliser darts because, according to him, "there were too many of them" was inexcusable.

I can't imagine that if the late John Aspinall were alive today that a farcical situation like this would have ever been allowed to happen.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler
Canterbury

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Reputation for hot stuff on the plate

■ Shapla Tandoori

THIS restaurant in Whitstable sets itself apart from the many Indian restaurants in the area by the quality of its food and service.

It has been established in the area for some time and enhanced its reputation through word of mouth – satisfied customers have been quick to pass on the name and recommend dishes they have particularly enjoyed.

The restaurant is also popular with the many visitors who arrive in the town “down

from London” especially during the summer months.

Owner Shahin Rahman is currently taking bookings for Mothers' Day on March 22.

The restaurant has been in business for 15 years and is open from Sunday to Thursday from noon until 2.30pm and from 6pm until 11.30pm. On Friday and Saturday opening hours are noon until 2.30pm and 6pm until midnight.

A Sunday family buffet is an extremely popular attraction and outside catering is offered for special events.

One of the most popular dishes on the menu is the tandoori mixed grill, which includes

chicken tikka, sik kebab, lamb tikka and tandoori chicken.

The chef has been working at the premises for 11 years and staff pride themselves on their expertise and knowledge of Indian food.

They are always willing to advise diners on particular combinations of dishes and recommend to them what they should try if they are looking for a particular dish or new culinary experience.

Feedback is carefully monitored by Mr Rahman and his staff – and there is even a book for customers to write their comments in.



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Why mums will love the Yantze

■ Yantze

THIS eatery opened its doors in Whitstable in 2004 and is staffed by experts in the preparation and presentation of Chinese food.

Kristine Man is at the centre of operations and her mother Fortai is head chef, drawing on all of her 30 year experience in the culinary trade to offer the very best for diners.

Her family has a long history when it comes to excellent cooking.

Kristine herself worked in her mother's restaurant at the age of 15 and her grandmother has a highly successful restaurant in Muswell Hill.

Five other family members have eating places in Kent and London and all have fine reputations too.

Yantze is currently taking bookings for

Mothers' Day, which falls on March 22, as well as April 3 when a Blues Brothers-style band will be playing. A charity event to raise funds for the RSPCA is also being planned.

The restaurant offers an eat-as-much-as-you-like buffet on lunchtimes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, while evening opening hours are from 5.30pm until 11.30pm from Tuesdays to Sundays.

Current best-selling dishes include crispy duck as well as mussels in black bean sauce and squid with spicy salt.

Comic and panto star Dave Lee is a keen fan of the restaurant, which has knowledgeable and friendly staff who all know their way around the menu and can advise customers as to the best combination of dishes.

Diners come from across the county and further as Yantze cements its reputation as one of the best places to eat around.

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Shapla

Start with king prawn butterfly. Follow this with jaal kahtta – off the bone chicken breast marinated and grilled in a tandoori oven mixed in a delicately spiced sauce of tomatoes, butter, green chillies, thinly sliced onions with balti and fragrant spices which combine to produce a thick sauce.
Telephone: 01227 262454.

Yantze

Fresh scallops with chilli and garlic and spicy salt to start. Then a main course of stuffed three treasures: mushroom, aubergine and peppers filled with minced prawn in black bean sauce. For dessert: Fantastica – vanilla and caramel ice cream with chocolate balls, toffee pieces and caramel sauce.
Telephone: 01227 771786.

The Oak

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Carnage and I

Richard E Grant is acting like a child

GOD OF CARNAGE

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GREAT actor Richard E Grant will be treading The Marlowe's boards next week in God of Carnage.

Yasmina Reza's play looks at what happens when the social niceties of adulthood can no longer cover up underlying grievances and power struggles.

When two boys fight at school, their parents meet to discuss the matter in a civilised fashion. As the evening progresses, the four adults begin to behave more and more childishly until the meeting descends into chaos.

God of Carnage opened in the West End last year with a star cast that included Ralph Fiennes and Ken Stott. It was greeted with critical acclaim, one critic describing it as "a fantastic Abigail's Party for the urban, professional classes".

Grant plays self-centred lawyer Alain, whose son, 11-year-old Ferdinand, has knocked out his friend Bruno's teeth with a stick. Immoral and arrogant, he tries to use aggression to deal with Bruno's aggrieved parents.

Best known for his breakthrough role in cult 1987 film Withnail And I, Grant has appeared in more than 60 films. His unusual childhood inspired Wah-Wah, a film that he made over five difficult years.

Born in Mbabane, Swaziland, Richard Grant Esterhuysen was the son of the last British minister of education and a German/South



African ballet teacher. As a child he witnessed his mother's infidelity, which led to his parents' divorce, and had an alarming moment at 15 when a gun was pointed at his head by his alcoholic father.

The desire to act began when he was a child and he went on to study drama at university in Cape Town, where he co-founded the multi-racial Troupe Theatre Company.

His father died from lung cancer at the age of 51, too early to see Grant's career really take off. Grant left Swaziland the year after his father's death and worked as a waiter in Covent Garden before landing roles in the theatre. In 1983 he met dialect

coach Joan Washington, who would later become his wife.

Although Withnail And I would be Grant's big break, it marked an unhappy time in his life. The couple's first child, a daughter, was born prematurely and died during the first days of filming, but they went on to have another daughter, Olivia.

A master at playing eccentric, furious and memorable characters, Grant has worked with some of the world's greatest directors and continues to delight audiences on both screen and stage.

Tickets are £12.50 to £24.50. Book at www.marlowetheatre.com, or phone the box office on 01227 787787.

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The new gravel garden allows glimpses of 18th century parkland, while there are wonderful views of the

church tower through the Walled Garden. Novelist Jane Austen was a frequent visitor to Goodnestone and, after one trip in 1796, she wrote romantic classic *Pride and Prejudice*.

The gardens will be open from noon to 4pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £4.50/£3/£1 for concessions and £1 for children.

For more information visit www.goodnestoneparkgardens.co.uk or call 01304 840107.

THE END OF EVERYTHING EVER

Thursday, February 26
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

THE pre-war experiences of a generation are explored in *The End of Everything Ever*.

As part of the Gulbenkian's World Fest, New International Encounter will be staging their critically acclaimed play drawing on true stories of the Kindertransport. Performed in English, Czech, German and Norwegian, the company shines a light into one of the darkest moments of history and emerges with a story of hope, love and survival.

In the months leading up



to the outbreak of the Second World War, thousands of children from Austria, Poland, Germany and Czechoslovakia were sent to Britain without their parents, to escape the Nazi regime. Most of them were Jewish and many never saw their families again.

The End of Everything Ever tells the story of Agata, a six-year-old girl put on a train by her father. As she absent-mindedly chews the paper tag around her neck, she obliterates her name and address and with it, any chance of getting home.

The show, which is suitable for ages 14 and above, starts at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £13/£11. To book call 01227 769075 or see www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS

Tuesday and Wednesday March 3-4
Bossingham Village Hall & Herne Bay Little Theatre

A THRILLING tale of suspense and spying is brought to small venues across the county by Chalkfoot Theatre Arts.

The Riddle of the Sands is a new adaptation of Erskine Childers' Edwardian book, considered to be the forerunner of the modern spy novel. With two actors playing a variety of characters, the play offers suspense, adventure and tongue-in-cheek humour.

Set just before the outbreak of the First World War, the show sees two young men set out on a yachting expedition that turns into a dangerous spying mission.

Despite losing major funding last year, Chalkfoot received a great deal of support from rural communities and secured a life-line grant from Kent County Council. This means they can carry on bringing great theatre to small venues around Kent.

The performance starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8/£7. Refreshments and a licensed bar will be available. *Riddle of the Sands* will visit the Memorial Hall in Woodchurch on March 18. To find out more about Chalkfoot visit www.chalkfoot.org.uk.



CANTERBURY LEISURE

Muical duo aim to take us down memory lane

ENJOY a nostalgic musical trip in An Evening with Martin & Barbara.

Join Martin Farbrother and his special guest for a night of songs by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee and more at Broad Oak Village Hall at 7.30pm on Friday.

Tickets, priced at £5, are available from Broad Oak Village Stores or by calling 01227 283445.

Gardens to spring open for you to take a stroll

VISITORS are invited to admire the gardens at Chilham Castle, near Canterbury, this weekend.

The gardens at the beautiful castle will be open to the public from 11am to 3pm on Sunday for a spring bulbs day. It will then open one day a month throughout the spring and summer.

To find out more visit the website www.chilham-castle.co.uk.

Join the Brothers for a rocking night of blues

GRAB your shades and get ready to boogie with The Blues Brothers Party at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury.

Jake and Elwood are in town until Saturday, giving exhilarating live performances of songs made famous by the cult film. The pair will be rocking through all the movie's best-loved tracks.

Tickets are £13.50 to £23. Call 01227 787787 or see www.marlowetheatre.com.

It's time to pick your Big Day Out destination

FREE visits to some of the county's best attractions are on offer next month with the return of the Kent Big Day Out.

On March 28, thousands of us will be able to experience the entertainment on offer in Kent. More than 17,000 tickets are being released by Visit Kent, they will be available from visitor information centres and at www.kentbigdayout.co.uk from Tuesday.

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HOTEL FOR DOGS (U)



When orphans Andi and Bruce are told by their new guardians that pets are forbidden, they decide to keep their loyal dog in a disused hotel. Soon they find themselves running a four-star retreat.

Clint's directing his life so he keeps on learning

■ BY SHEREEN LOW

HE'S had many box office successes during his long and esteemed career, yet Clint Eastwood must be chuffed that his latest offering, Gran Torino, is his highest grossing film ever.

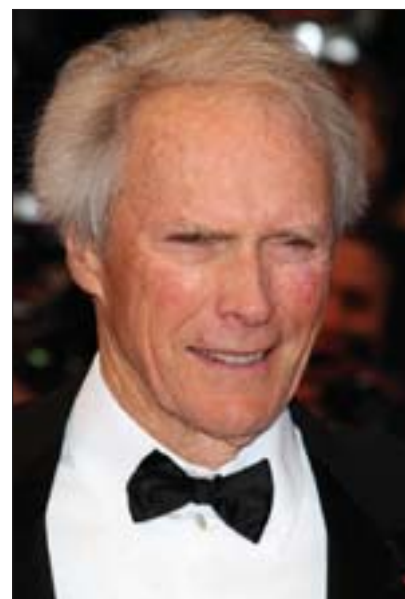
The gritty drama, which he stars in, directed and produced, cruised to the top of the North American box office in its opening weekend and remains in the Top 10, having taken in over US \$120million.

Not bad, considering the living legend wasn't looking to act again.

"I hadn't planned on doing much more acting, really. I said a few years ago, 'I don't think I'll act any more, I'll stay behind the camera,'" he admits. "And then Million Dollar Baby came along and I liked that role, so I said, 'I think I'll do this because I'm right for it', and then I did Gran Torino. It had a role that was my age, and the character seemed like it was tailored for me, even though it wasn't.

"The message from the story was great – it shows you're never too old to learn. And that's why I'm still working at 78, because I like learning something new all the time, and every time you do a project, you learn new things. That makes it fun. When it's not fun, you won't see me doing it any more."

Clint has had one of the most illustrious careers to date. The man who carved out a niche for playing tough guys and cowboys in the 60s has made the transition into a five-time Oscar-winning filmmaker, directing movies like Changeling, Million Dollar Baby and Mystic River, and winning over a new generation of audiences at the same time.



LAST ROLE? "It might be," says Clint Eastwood, 78, star of Gran Torino which has been a box office hit in the US

"I wanted to be a director because I felt one day I wouldn't want to be an actor any more, and so I started working towards that. I figured people will look up on screen one day, and say, 'enough of that,'" he said.

"You just do different things. During the 60s, I knew I had to do films outside the Western genre, as much as I love them. I figured if I kept doing those, I'd eventually run out of steam so I just kept expanding my career. And in 1970, I started directing."

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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In Gran Torino, Clint plays Walt Kowalski, a grumpy Korean War veteran who's forced to come to terms with his prejudices.

"Walt's very disturbed about the way his world has gone. He was raised in a neighbourhood that was populated with automobile people like him, probably a high percentage of Polish Americans, like him. So when he sees his neighbourhood changing, it discourages him."

There are rumours Gran Torino could be the last film before the father-of-seven (and grandfather-of-two) retires from the acting spotlight.

"I've been saying that for years," Clint says. "You never know. You never say never. It might be, I don't know. I don't know how many, if any, great roles they have for guys my age – I could play butlers, I suppose."

GRAN TORINO
Certificate 15

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CANTERBURY SHOPPING

Use your loaf and win free haircuts for a year

HAIR salon Loaf opens on Palace Street in Canterbury tomorrow – and for one lucky customer they'll celebrate the opening by getting free haircuts all year. The salon will be handing out tickets between 9am-noon. Those with tickets then need to be in store at 12.30pm when two names will be pulled out. Whoever wins a quiz will then scoop the prize. The store opens on Thursday, February 26 and the promotion is for opening day only. See www.loafhairs.com.

Tesco turns little girls designer in new range

A NEW range of children's wear by iconic designer Elspeth Gibson will soon be available from Tesco. One of Britain's most sought-after designers, Gibson's clothes carry her signature touch of contemporary feminine glamour. Now she has turned her attention to kids and created a range of pretty designs for girls aged from three to 10, featuring sorbet colours and floral motifs. Priced from just £4, the range will be available at selected stores from March.

Why go out when you can have fun at home?

STAYING in is becoming the new going out, so Comet is stocking a range of items to make the house party go with a swing. Save money in the long-term by investing in the Carlsberg Draughtmaster (£91.99) for the perfect pint at home or chill out with the 12-bottle Husky wine cooler (£99.99). Keep your guests sweet by turning on the Russell Hobbs chocolate fountain (£14.99) and beat your friends at the Xbox 360 Arcade Package (£127.22). See www.comet.co.uk.

Give your bounce some bounce with curl range

THE days of struggling with riotous ringlets could be over as TRESemmé launches its new Flawless Curls range. Reduce frizz with the Curl Hydration Leave In Cream, while Curl Definition Cream Gel adds shape, control and shine. The Curl Activator Styling Mist revives perfect curls and fix them in place. The Flawless Curls range is available from Boots, Tesco, Asda, Superdrug, Sainsbury's and Morrison's from March, priced at £4.29.

Waitrose pours out a glass of discount offers

WINE lovers could find a bargain at Waitrose as the supermarket chain announces its latest offers. From today shoppers can enjoy discounts of up to 50 per cent on selected wines, beers and spirits. Lindemans Winemakers Release Chardonnay and Shiraz-Cabernet, are half price at £3.99. Enjoy a saving of £3 on Hardys Anniversary Chardonnay/Viognier. Offers are available until March 24. Visit www.waitrose.co.uk for full details.

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Bouldered over by the Lake District

■ BY LUCY CORRY

WHEN they promised me an alternative view of the Lake District, this wasn't what I had in mind.

My husband is at the wheel of a bright orange four-wheel-drive vehicle which is perched perilously on a rock formation high above Coniston. The oversized Tonka toy is on a 45-degree lean and my fellow backseat passenger is beginning to whimper.

Her boyfriend, in the front seat, clicks the walkie-talkie on and summons help. "Errr, Nick," he says nervously, "we might need a bit of advice on this one."

Anyone who thinks the Lake District is all about wandering lonely as a cloud or trying to spot Peter Rabbit hasn't met Nick Fieldhouse.

The softly-spoken 30-something may look like he's suited to a scholarly life, but he turns into a thrill-seeking maniac at the wheel of a 4x4. Fieldhouse grew up in the area and now runs KANKKU, which offers off-road experiences through the majestic national park.

He manages to calmly talk us through the boulders – reminding us that we are driving his own personal truck, so to be extra-careful – and we bounce around happily in the back as our convoy traverses the 19th-century trails.

I feel bad about disturbing the peace in this rugged landscape, but this off-road expedition is brilliant fun.

There's plenty of time for relaxation and recovery when we get back to our weekend home at Lowtherwood, a four-bedroom barn conversion perched above Lake Windermere.

Lowtherwood is the latest addition to the award-winning Holbeck Ghyll Hotel and has everything a weekend house party could want.

Guests are met with champagne or tea and cake, while each bedroom is lavishly furnished



DIVERSITY: The Lake District is a beautiful place to explore, either on foot or in a bright orange 4x4

and has its own enormous en-suite. Upstairs there's plenty of room to lounge around on the inviting sofas and enjoy the view (or the giant TV) – and there's even a private sauna and a hot-tub where you can soak under the stars.

We also have a well-appointed kitchen – but no one from our party does more than look at it as we are sinfully spoiled by the fabulous food on offer at the hotel.

Staying at Lowtherwood – or any of the self-contained lodges within the hotel's landscaped grounds – gives the best of both worlds. It's great to relax in your own private property, knowing the facilities of a first-class country house hotel are just across the field.

Holbeck Ghyll, a 19th-century former hunting lodge, won a Michelin star nine years ago and has kept it ever since.

Of course, there's plenty more to the Lake

District than just gorging yourself on lavish food and gazing stupefied at the view. Keen walkers and mountain-bikers will be in their element – there are lots of easily-accessed trails near Holbeck Ghyll – and history buffs can visit the former homes of William Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter and John Ruskin.

Would-be sailors can test their skills on any of the lakes, while landlubbers can opt for the easier option of a cruise.

Holbeck Ghyll even offers tips for racing fans. Hotel-owners David and Patricia Nicholson have a racehorse named after their pride and joy – and David is more than happy to discuss its recent win at Epsom.

They might not be able to guarantee a return on your investment when the horse races next, but the odds couldn't be better for a fantastic break.

Travel details

Lucy Corry was a guest of Holbeck Ghyll. Prices for Lowtherwood at Holbeck Ghyll start from £1,500 per night, which equates to £187.50 per person (based on eight sharing). The price includes accommodation, English breakfast, tea and cake upon arrival, a champagne reception and Michelin Star dinner in the privacy of Lowtherwood or in Holbeck Ghyll's award-winning restaurant.

Spa treatments at Holbeck Ghyll start from £25. Holbeck Ghyll reservations: phone 01539 432375, or visit www.holbeckghyll.com.

Book-ahead fares from London to Oxenholme start from £17.50. For details of train times or to book tickets online, go to www.virgintrains.com.

Prices for the KANKKU off-road expedition start at £300 per vehicle, per day. Visit www.kankku.co.uk for more information.

To learn more about Cumbria and the Lake District, visit www.golakes.co.uk



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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

MASTERCHEF
BBC Two, 8pm, tonight and
Thursday
MARGARET
BBC Two, 9pm, Thursday

NEVER change a winning formula goes the age-old saying, but the producers of Masterchef took no notice of that when they brought the programme back a few years ago.

With super-drawler Loyd Grossman churning out pasta sauces rather than presenting, it was up to newbies Greg Wallace and John Torode to taste test the best of what Britain's amateur chefs could come up with by presiding over a new format which could have upset the long-standing fans.

The new-look show sees cooks thrown into the deep end in different scenarios, rather than just cooking up their best dishes straight off the bat.

A series of different challenges are handed out to contestants such as working in top kitchens and cooking en-masse for troops of soldiers or cub scouts, and all that sort of thing.

The old Masterchef was the perfect kind of show to watch in the run-up to Sunday dinner, but the new format, which has now got a few good years in its new format behind it, is also a decent slice of entertainment itself and has been shifted to midweek on BBC Two.

It manages to be more than just another reality show or cook-off like Ready Steady Cook or Can't Cook, Don't Give a Monkeys, or whatever it's called.

The new pairing are capable hosts too, getting away nicely with a few searing insults, but never rubbing it in too badly. The lads have turned out to be steady hands at the tiller.

Loyd would be proud.

The penultimate episode of this



IRON LADY: Lindsay Duncan plays the role of Margaret Thatcher in BBC drama Margaret

series is tonight and the final is tomorrow night, as the three remaining contestants battle it out for the coveted title, before embarking on a lifetime of supermarket tours and appearances on daytime TV.

On Thursday, after the pots and pans have finished rattling, stick around for the channel's take on the last years of Margaret Thatcher's premiership in Margaret, which looks interesting.

The acceptance that it is time to give up the reins of power is the theme, as former trusted colleagues such as Geoffrey Howe and Michael Heseltine stick the boot in to their boss in the early 90s.

The downfall of the Iron Lady, at the time the most powerful woman in the world, should make good TV.

Expect tons of backroom conniving, a lot of stubborn refusals to go and by all accounts a top performance from Lindsay Duncan as the indomitable Mrs T.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
AN unexpected message or signal makes you feel like you're walking on air. Although you're usually immune to things like this you can't help but be intrigued by what you see and hear. If you're inspired to teach or take a class, do it because it will lead to better things.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
A QUIET evening for two lights the fires of passion between you and a partner. Find a way to escape the crowd with the one you love and enjoy some quiet moments to share your thoughts and feelings. If you already have a partner, the two of you need to make time for just the two of you.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
A BUSINESS partnership could bring unexpected results. You could spend any extra income on a glamorous vacation or you might decide to put it away for a rainy day. There's never been a better time to take time out and head for a big city with a glittering night life.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
NORMALLY you're very reluctant to spend hard-earned money on pampering yourself, but by putting your personal pleasure first you'll feel rejuvenated and more than able to rise to the challenge of the days ahead. A relative could offer to set you up on a blind date.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
SOMEONE could give you a surprise token of their affection. Don't feel guilty about accepting it because it doesn't have any strings attached. Why not plan a romantic rendezvous at a luxury hotel? You're long overdue for some private time with your lover.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21)
FRIENDSHIP could turn to romance with very little encouragement. Over the past few weeks you may have detected an increasing attraction between you and a pal. The two of you will only have eyes for each other. A shared interest gives you plenty to talk about.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
A LOVING relationship blossoms this week as you explore your desires with a trusted lover. If you have hang ups, ask your partner to help you past them. Going to counselling can help tremendously if you're not sure how to proceed. You'll achieve a whole new level of intimacy.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
YOU attract would-be wooers wherever you go. Someone who has their eye on you could ask for a date. Go ahead and accept; the two of you will have a great time. It's nice to spend time with someone who is intelligent, inquisitive and outgoing.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
THIS will be a week of pleasant surprises, particularly where your career is concerned. Don't pass up any opportunity to sit before authority figures. These meetings could lead to some incredible opportunities. If you're thinking of switching industries, follow the impulse.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
EMBARKING on a serious relationship is highly favoured. What begins as a casual date could slowly grow into a life-long commitment. If you are already in a relationship, this would be a good time to encourage your partner's career plans – but this involves an element of risk.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
GET ready to be pampered and petted by your amour. They want to lavish you with love, and who are you to argue? If you're single, don't despair. You could find romance at a formal evening function. If you spot someone attractive, suggest going out for drinks.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
COMING to terms with your feelings for a loved one will be liberating. Normally, you're reluctant to wear your heart on your sleeve, but you can't help showing you're your love and affection to your partner. If you don't live together, this would be a good time to join households.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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No76

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY

	9			5	4		8
2			9		6		1
8		6		2			9
		8		5	4		1
		3			2		
1	5		6	2		9	
4			5			8	2
3	7			6			5
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MEDIUM

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	3	1				8	7
	7		9	5			
6	5		8	1		9	2
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HARD

4				6			
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				5			
8	9	5				3	7
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	6		4	9		7	5
7	1				9		
			7				2

CRYPTIC CLUES

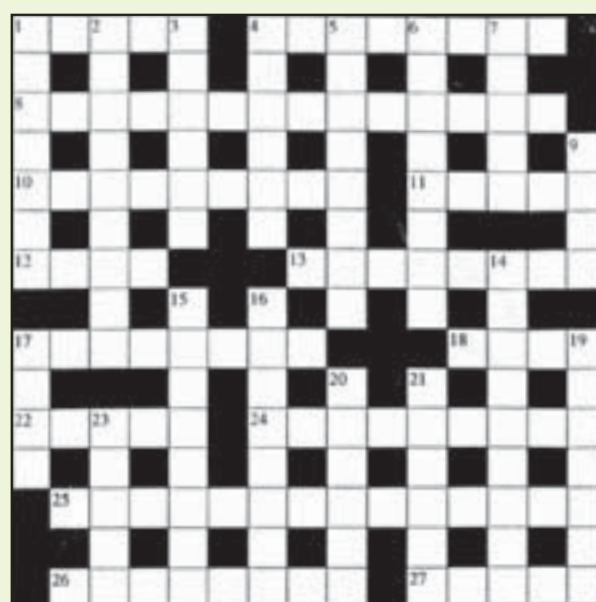
ACROSS

- 1 One Hebrew said to have come from old French province (5)
4 Certain people have done this (4,4)
8 Top flower? (4,2,3,5)
10 Prohibited away from barriers (3-6)
11 Some strategy Ptolemy had for the country (5)
12 Declare it's a promise (4)
13 Started to debag? (8)
17 Remarkably rapid when influenced by the elements (8)
18 Stop limping (4)
22 Nut-case (5)
24 Result of not looking well (9)
25 Equestrian most upset by quiz chairman (8-6)
26 This machine, a contrivance that is hellish (8)
27 Make an offpeak call? (5)

DOWN

- 1 Inside camp Horace unearthed vessel (7)
2 Sailor's disappointment personified freezing weather (4,5)
3 More work (6)
4 Mould tar, mix freely (6)
5 Clothing (8)
6 Our vines producing something worth keeping (8)
7 Stony these mountains? (5)
9 Button takes up no end of room! (4)
14 Adept Lacy could have performed on stage (4-5)
15 Grow together during adolescence, no end, remarkably (8)
16 Emil broke new link at furnace (8)
17 Frenchman and I lead the way in the haze (4)
19 Plant-holder (7)
20 Leonard climbing underneath bog plant (6)
21 Regular set off on wrong day (6)
23 One cannot go straight ahead and make it (1-4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Inflexible (5)
4 Unbalanced (3-5)
8 Financial institution (10,4)
10 Organising spending (9)
11 Roman goddess (5)
12 Snare (4)
13 Church of England (8)
17 North American Indian (8)
18 Speck of soot (4)
22 German river (5)
24 Lumen blip (anag.) (5-4)
25 Entertaining person (6,2,6)
26 Scottish port (8)
27 Make corrections (5)

DOWN

- 1 Medieval trombone (7)
2 Instant (9)
3 Contracted muscles (6)
4 Alarm-bell (6)
5 Resounding (8)
6 Town in South Wales (4,4)
7 Love goddess (5)
9 Abel's brother (4)
14 Mix together (9)
15 Driver of stolen vehicle (8)
16 Steep ice (anag.) (3-5)
17 Hood (4)
19 Braided (7)
20 Small cake (6)
21 Burning (6)
23 Small firework (5)

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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No75

EASY

7	1	4	3	9	5	6	2	8
8	2	6	7	4	1	3	5	9
5	9	3	2	8	6	4	1	7
9	8	7	6	5	2	1	4	3
4	6	5	1	3	8	7	9	2
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3	7	8	5	2	4	9	6	1
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MEDIUM

6	7	5	8	2	4	3	1	9
4	9	2	3	1	7	6	8	5
3	1	8	5	9	6	4	7	2
9	8	1	7	6	2	5	3	4
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5	3	9	6	8	1	2	4	7
1	2	7	4	3	5	9	6	8
8	6	4	2	7	9	1	5	3

HARD

7	5	4	8	6	3	1	2	9
8	3	1	2	7	9	6	5	4
9	6	2	4	5	1	3	7	8
6	9	5	7	8	2	4	3	1
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2	1	9	6	3	5	8	4	7
3	4	8	9	2	7	5	1	6
5	7	6	1	4	8	2	9	3

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No75

ACROSS: 1 Quaint 4 Agamic 10 Au naturel
11 Auric 12 Trellis 13 Company 14 Putting
across 16 Jiggery-pokery 21 Sheriff 22
Royalty 24 Inset 25 About-face 26 Talent
27 Intern. DOWN: 1 Quartz 2 Annie 3
Notelet 5 Grammar 6 Merganser 7 Coccyx
8 Prisoner of war 9 Glacial period 15
Universal 17 Glisten 18 Krypton 19 T-shirt
20 Wyvern 23 Lease.

QUICK SOLUTION No76

Trussed 20 Muffin 21 Abilene 23 Squib
15 Joyrider 16 Set-piece 17 Cow 19
6 Ebbw Vale 7 Venus 9 Cain 14 Commingle
2 Immediate 3 Flexed 4 Tocsin 5 Plangent
18 Aberdeen 27 Friend. DOWN: 1 Sackbut
Weser 2 Plumb-line 25 Bundle of laughs
Trap 13 Amphitheat 17 Cherokee 18 Smut 22
Commercial bank 10 Budgeting 11 Vesta 12

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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PROPERTY NEWS

Vet your tenants before property goes to pot

NORWICH Union has been warning landlords that they should vet tenants carefully and take time over inspecting properties, because of a rise in the use of let residential properties as cannabis farms.

Police figures show there were 5,497 seizures of cannabis plants in 2006/07 – up 34 per cent since 2005 – and, according to the insurer, the cost of claims settled in 2007 rose to more than £1 million.

Intensive cannabis production involves high-powered lamps and irrigation systems and can therefore result in all kinds of property damage, from holes in walls to serious fire damage.

NU property owners' underwriting manager Mike Colmans warns that "with cannabis farming clearly on the rise, there is an increased risk for landlords and their properties".

He adds that landlords may not be aware that their property has been damaged by tenants producing cannabis – however, their insurer may not settle a claim if the landlord hasn't taken "reasonable precautions" in preventing such misuse.

Tories wade into spat over empty homes rise

BRITAIN is increasingly in danger of having an empty houses crisis, according to Conservatives.

They say some of the rise in abandoned properties has been caused by home-owners facing repossession.

Other empty homes were bought by property developers who have since struggled to raise the money to renovate and furnish them for occupation.

The Conservatives say the number of empty homes is becoming one of the emerging issues of the recession and is now a cause of "serious concern".

Grant Shapps, shadow housing minister, said: "The Government has sat back as the social housing waiting list has spiralled to record levels, leaving 1.8 million vulnerable families desperate for housing."

"At the same time the number of empty homes has risen steadily – homes that could be used to house those in need."

"The Government needs to stop thinking about ineffective, headline-grabbing announcements and start thinking about how to help the millions of people waiting for suitable housing."



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Year	Sales
2008	726,887
2007	1,480,152
2006	1,525,798
2005	1,220,060
2004	1,371,021
2003	1,357,491
2002	1,446,202
2001	1,353,663

TESTING THE WATER: Agents have reported an increase in enquiries and 40 to 50 viewings a weekend – but these were resulting in no offers being made on the properties

There may be interest, but that doesn't mean anyone's buying

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

DESPITE estate agents' best efforts, the number of property sales is at a 20-year low.

Property pricing specialist website Zoopla.co.uk says it has analysed the statistics for the past two decades.

It revealed property sale transactions were at their lowest point in 20 years, and more than 50 per cent down on last year's totals. And looking over the figures, the company said it was often the case that blame could be laid at buyers who couldn't or wouldn't buy.

The new figures show just how weak the housing market was in 2008. Fewer than 727,000 home sales were recorded last year, compared with more than 1.48 million in 2007.

The site can provide free, instant value estimates on all 27 million UK homes and access to more than 15 million property sale records. Using those numbers, it has revealed quite how dismal the state of the British property market was in 2008, with the best month, May, barely racking up 78,000 transactions, fewer than December, the worst month of 2007.

Overall, 2008 saw only 1,990 home sales completed per day on average compared with more than double that at 4,050 per day a year earlier.

With the average home in Britain losing £26,813 in value in 2008 according to the latest figures, a staggering 3.2 million homeowners across the country now face

being 'under water', which means having paid more for their homes than they are now worth.

It said there was an increase of 2.7 million British home-owners in this position compared with the start of last year.

Alex Chesterman, boss and founder of the site, said: "One of the best indicators of market direction is often transaction volume and property activity was incredibly weak in 2008, with only 2.75 per cent of the housing stock in Britain changing hands, about

half the average volume of the last few years.

"The unprecedented fall in activity brought about by the credit crunch has led to the sharp decline in prices that has been witnessed in recent months."

"With estate agents reporting an increase in interest in the first few weeks on this year, the key to stabilising the market in 2009 lies in the Government's ability to unlock the credit freeze so buyers are able to act on that interest."



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PETHAM OIEO £135,000

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CHARTHAM £335,000

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FAVERSHAM OIEO £199,000

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FAVERSHAM £250,000

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SHELDWICH LEES OIEO £375,000

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Herne Bay

- 5 bed detached house
- Many original features
- Popular Central location

.....OIEO £315,000



Herne Bay

- Desirable location
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- 4 bed & 2 bathrooms over 2 floors
- Poplar location in Beltinge.Conservatory
- No onward chain available

.....£260,000



Beltinge

- Quality accommodation throughout
- 3 Bedrooms
- Quiet spot, Rural outlook to rear

.....£215,000-£225,000



Hillborough

- Fantastic 115' rear garden with views!
- 3 bedrooms
- Delightful semi rural location

.....£199,995



Herne Bay

- 4 Bedrooms
- Large lounge
- Garage with OSP

.....£195,000



Herne Bay

- 3 bed terraced house
- Over 21ft kitchen/diner
- No onward chain

.....£189,995



Greenhill

- 3 bed detached house
- Fitted kitchen/diner & seperate dining room
- Immaculate condition throughout

.....£189,000



Bishopstone

- 2 bedrooms
- Lovely secluded garden
- Potential for further accommodation

.....£179,995



Herne Bay

- 4 Beds - Town centre location
- Bags of character
- Out building ideal for games room!

.....£167,000



Broomfield

- 1 bed ground floor flat
- Driveway, rear & side garden
- Vacant possession

.....£114,995



Herne Bay

- 2 Bedrooms
- Warden Assisted
- No Chain

.....£106,000



Greenhill

- 2 bed semi detached bungalow
- Popular Greenhill location
- Good order thr

.....£154,995



Herne Bay

- 1 Bedroom retirement Flat
- Very handy town centre location
- Warden assisted.

.....£99,995



Whitstable

- 3 bedrooms
- Courtyard Garden
- Off street parking

.....£750 PCM



Herne Bay

- Warden assisted
- One bedroom
- Available immediately

.....£550 PCM



Greenhill

- 2 bed extended detached bungalow
- Popular Greenhill location
- Approx. 70ft rear garden

.....£175,000



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HERNE BAY £174,995

- Detached 2 bedroom bungalow
- Close to the beach, 90' garden
- Absolutely No Chain Ahead!!



HERNE BAY £225,000

- Complete re-urbishment required
- Magnificent size plot
- Completely Chain Free Sale



HERNE BAY £570,000

- Stunning Regency property
- 5 Beds, 4 Floors, Sea Views
- Also separate Coach House



HERNE BAY £139,995

- 3 bedroom family home
- Prompt sale needed
- Completely Chain Free!!



HERNE BAY £129,995

- Very Spacious 2 bed flat
- Charming Period Features
- Split level Accommodation



HERNE BAY £329,995

- Exceptional Location nr Sea
- 4 Bed Detached house
- Stylish interior, detached garage



HERNE BAY £269,995

- Extensive Detached Chalet
- 5 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms
- Superb Locn, Chain Free



HERNE BAY £164,995

- Fabulous 3 bed end terrace house
- Quiet location in Broomfield
- Ample parking, Chain Free



WHITSTABLE £219,995

- 2 Bedroom cottage
- Completely refurbished
- Close to town and amenities



WHITSTABLE £149,995

- 2 Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking Space
- Rear Small Garden



WHITSTABLE £149,995

- 2 bed ground floor flat
- Garage, close to amenities
- No forward chain



WHITSTABLE £167,950

- Conservation Area
- 2 bed, 23' living room,
- GFCH & DG Windows



HERNE BAY £125,000

- 2 bedroom terraced home
- Close to town centre
- Prompt sale required, no chain



HERNE BAY £134,995

- Central Location
- Off Street Parking
- Good Condition



HERNE BAY £159,995

- 3 Bed Semi
- Garage
- Good Location



HERNE BAY £170,000

- 3 bedrooms + Loft room
- Cul-de-sac location
- Ideal Family Home



WHITSTABLE £145,000

- 3/4 Bedroom Mid Terraced Home
- In need of total refurbishment
- NO CHAIN



WHITSTABLE £204,995

- 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Cul-de-sac Location
- NO CHAIN AHEAD



SEASALTER £215,000

- Outstanding 2 Bedroom Bungalow
- Garage and Driveway
- Must Be Seen Internally



WHITSTABLE £259,995

- Extended 4 bed detached house
- Conservatory, family home
- Must be seen



WHITSTABLE £174,995

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- 76' Rear Garden
- 2 Reception rooms



WHITSTABLE £179,950

- 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Carport with Enclosed Parking
- No Forward Chain



CHESTFIELD £315,000

- Extended 4 bed family home
- 3 reception rooms + conservatory
- 130' rear garden



WHITSTABLE £129,995

- Chain Free Sale
- Cosy one Bedroom Bungalow
- Priced to sell!!

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OIEO £100,000

2 bed first floor flat set in grounds benefiting from communal gym, tennis courts. Early viewing recommended!!

Canterbury



£165,000

This much improved semi-detached property offers 2 bedrooms, kitchen, conservatory and off road parking.

Sturry



£174,995

3 bed end of terrace property has been finished to a high spec benefits from cloakroom, en-suite, family bathroom.

Harbledown



£175,000

2 bedroom bungalow benefiting from panoramic views, access down a private road, kitchen/breakfast room, garage.

Sturry



OIEO £179,995

4 bedroom bungalow situated in a quiet cul-de-sac offers lounge/diner, secluded garden, off road parking, garage.

Sturry



£199,995

A modern link detached property offering three bedrooms, fitted kitchen/diner, garage and a garden to the rear.

Chilham



£299,950

4 bedroom house which has been extended offering larger than average living area, rear garden, off road parking.

Sturry



£349,995

This newly built 4 bed home sits on a plot approximately 145'x145', offers extensive and well planned accommodation.

Sturry



£675,000

6 bed detached property offering an additional plot of land behind making it ideal for conversion and extension.

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 • Customer satisfaction survey, Dec 2007
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HERNE BAY £159,995



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HERNE BAY £189,995



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HERNE BAY £169,995



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• Semi Detached Home • 3 Bed • Lounge/Dining Room • Kitchen

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- Detached Chalet Style Property
- 5 Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
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- Town Centre Flat
- Split Level
- One Bedroom
- Living Room
- Kitchen

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WHITSTABLE £160,000



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• Mid Terraced House • Sought After Location • 3 Bed • Living Room

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• Stamp Duty Exempt • Character Cottage • Two Bedrooms

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- No Chain
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WOMEN seeking men

TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM

Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, have brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871 **1**

SINGLE DAD WANTED

Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLTm an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099 **1**

BLONDE BABE LIKES FOOTIE!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & sports, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 446756 **1**

A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, 35, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share things with. Box 448591 **1**

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 **1**

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 **1**

ON A ROLL!

Hi, I'm Alison, 36, 5ft5, single mum, loves swimming, roller skating and meeting new people, looking for a male for friendship, maybe leading to LTR. Box 448865 **1**

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 448666 **1**

TRY ME

Ashford based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have 2 kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985 **1**

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 **1**

SCOTTISH LASS

Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 **1**



THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542 **1**

EYES ON YOU

Hi I'm Jenny, 40, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more. Box 449181 **1**

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTm fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107 **1**

CAN YOU HANDLE ME?

Bubbly upbeat slim blonde girl, 40, independent but looking for that someone special to have a good time with. Box 448251 **1**

PASSION FOR YOU

Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446890 **1**

THE HOME LIFE

Happy, caring female, homely, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024 **1**

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 **1**

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLTm a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 **1**

BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY

Caring lovely lady, 42, genuine, short brown hair, lacks confidence! seeking loyal, genuine person, someone special to put the spark back into my life. Box 885761 **1**

ANIMAL LOVER

Tall, slimish woman, I like horse riding, animals, cycling, country walks with the dogs, nights in and out. I'm 42, with brown hair/eyes. Box 448924 **1**

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444795 **1**

TOGETHER?

Slender lady, 42, 5ft9, long dark hair, loves walking her dogs, enjoys the outdoors, seeks gentleman to spend time with and get to know. Box 448681 **1**

BELLE MICHELLE

I'm looking for a nice, honest, genuine guy for a committed relationship. I'm 42yr old, many interests and friends, just looking for someone special. Box 448370 **1**

AIMING HIGH

6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afterwards). Box 446017 **1**

LET'S CLICK

WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847 **1**

GOOD TIME GIRL

Outgoing young lady, 43, blonde hair blue eyes, 5ft4, works hard, loves socialising, partying, meeting new people... looking for similar male to enjoy happy times with. Box 449157 **1**

IN THE SWIM

Divorced, tactile single mum, 43, from Kent, likes swimming, cinema, walking on the beach, socialising and sharing a bottle of wine, looking for a nice man. Box 446902 **1**

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

I'm a single mum of 42, catering manager, looking to find someone to have fun, laughs and enjoy life with. I like walks, cycling, socialising. Box 883204 **1**

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 **1**

MISS JULIE

Bubbly blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for honest love... Box 886162 **1**

BE WITH ME

Honest and caring female, 44yrs old, enjoys pubs, cinema, theatre and much more, seeks a kind, caring gentleman for friendship & romance. Box 882419 **1**

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 **1**

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 **1**

MAID MARIAN!

Hi I'm Marian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 46, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship with. Box 447986 **1**

THE REAL THING

46yr old Princess looking for loving, romantic, faithful, loyal, open-minded knight in shining armour for forever love. Box 883560 **1**

HI EVERYONE, I'M

Debbie, 46, slim, 5ft5, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for a man, 44-49, 5ft7+, with a nice appearance, preferably a N/S. Box 449422 **1**

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186 **1**

FANCY A FILM?

Hi, I'm Pam, 47, 5ft11, brown hair, hazel eyes, slimish, divorced, looking for a LTR with a nice and genuine man. No time-wasters please! Heathfield. Box 448626 **1**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444565 **1**

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

BE MY GUY

Young 50s lady, slim, 5ft4, fair hair, a smoker, loves music, going out, cooking, gardening, seeking similar loving, caring, honest male. Box 492288 **1**

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£1.50 per photo
Add a photo of yourself
Register your number with us & send by MMS to 07746 738 788. Enter P2P as subject.
MMS - standard network charges apply.

FOR KEEPS
Hi I'm Karen, 50, medium build, 5ft, separated, devoted mum, looking for friendship with someone who likes dining out, evening walks and perhaps something lasting... Box 882618 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100 **1**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?
Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 419914 **1**

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS
Hi there, kind-hearted 57yr old sincere lady, non-smoker, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship first and to make me laugh. Box 440637 **1**

PISCES OR CAPRICORN?
Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea, WLTm tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240 **1**

MUSIC TO MY EARS
Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 **1**

HAPPY AS ME
Fun-to-be with, happy, contented lady (60), 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 882812 **1**

AN END TO LONELINESS

Maggie, 66, widow, grey-blond hair, average build, 5ft6, works part-time, likes going out, shows, meals, bowls, swimming; seeking honest, young-at-heart, male for friendship, maybe more. Box 882281 **1**

Women seeking women

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS

I'm a 26yr old female, looking for new friends and maybe that special girl... Let's have a meal and a drink and see what happens! Box 448722 **1**

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142 **1**

FRIENDSHIP, HOPEFULLY MORE

Feminine woman, easygoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes, I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448248 **1**



KING OF HEARTS
Very romantic 44yr old male, fair hair/blue eyes, looking for his Queen of Hearts to complete the deck for possible LTR. Hastings. Box 446120 **1**

DAD'S THE WORD

Lonely single male, 44, 6ft2, fair hair, great SOH, quite happy but looking for a lady 30-60 to have fun with and hopefully something else. Box 446452 **1**

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Fairly fit male, 45, 5ft6, looking for a female to share a laugh and have fun with at the weekends. GSOH is a must! Box 882252 **1**

CONNECT WITH ME

43yr old single dad, likes socialising, eating out, travelling, family life, seeks female, 26-38, with similar interests. Box 783876 **1**

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU
Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274 **1**

THE LOOK OF LOVE

Outgoing and friendly man, 47, blue eyes, fair hair, likes the countryside and spicy food, looking to meet a nice and friendly lady for love. Box 449306 **1**

HAPPY TOGETHER

White male, 46, 5ft7, easygoing, N/S, loves a laugh, enjoys theme parks/concerts/romantic walks. WLTm female to be happy with. Tammy please call again! lost number! Box 444339 **1**

SHARE THE GOOD LIFE
Professional male, 45, own home/car, likes cinema, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 42602 **1**

IN YOUR EYES

Blond, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship, more. Box 421664 **1**

EVERYTHING I DO

Late, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine, bars, places of interest, sports and reading, WLTm a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720 **1**

TRUSTWORTHY

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build, I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437 **1**

R U 4 ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 **1**

BE MY STACEY!

Gavin, 39, 6ft, blonde hair, blue eyes, fun-loving, looking for a lady to get know better and see how things goes. Box 449303 **1**

FOR KEEPS

Divorced devoted dad, 39, into motorbikes, bikes, football, socialising, travel; seeks similar woman with good heart for potential romance. Box 448687 **1**

TO ENJOY LIFE

Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTm someone trustworthy and caring to settle down with. Box 448377 **1**

CHEEKY BOY

Cheeky 41yr old male, likes pubs, clubs, meals out, cuddles and snogs, seeks female, 30-40, for friendship. Tunbridge Box 445862 **1**

PUT THE SPICE BACK IN!

Family orientated guy, 41, separated, looking to find a lady who wants the fun and company of a partner back into their life. Box 884085 **1**

MINDS HIS OWN BUSINESS!

Attractive guy, nice to be with, laid-back, I'm 41, 5ft8, medium/stokey build, brown hair. Own business/home, enjoy walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 430286 **1**

HONEST AND KIND

Down-to-earth male, great personality, 41, 6ft, medium build, loves the countryside, wine bars, cinema, sports; seeking female with great personality, honest and trustworthy. Box 446596 **1**

COMPLETE ME

Single dad from Kent, 42, loves life and socialising, likes eating out, cinema and theatre, seeks single mum, 25-45, to make my life complete. Box 448584 **1**

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SHARE THE GOOD LIFE

Professional male, 45, own home/car, likes cinema, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and

MOTORS NEWS



Fiesta bucks trend to keep number one spot

FORD has a runaway success on its hands with the new Fiesta.

It was Britain's top seller in January – its third successive month at number one, despite the motor market being more than 30 per cent down on a year ago.

Fiesta sales bucked that trend dramatically, being up by 28.3 per cent in January when it was also voted What Car? Car of the Year 2009.

And the success should continue with some dealers offering more than £1,000 off '09 Fiesta entry models.



Fiat starlet shows it's got roofless ambition

FIAT has lifted the lid on its latest 500 version – literally.

For the new Fiat 500C is the long-awaited cabriolet version of the cult car of the moment and pays homage to the original 1957 Fiat Nuova 500's fabric roof, by using a roll top approach instead of a full drop-top.

The choice will have been influenced by retaining as much rigidity as possible, without the weight penalty from extra strengthening needed after chopping off the roof and window frames.



Comeback time for the chic Citroën DS label

HAVING created the successful Picasso MPV sub-brand, Citroën will launch an 'affordable premium' line-up next year.

This range within a range will use the evocative DS initials – standing here for 'Different Spirit' – from the brand's futuristic 1955-75 big car series and the DS Inside concept car (pictured) shows the emphasis on sharp design with 'Mini-esque' packaging that should put the British-built icon under pressure.

This concept is said to be based on the DS3 – the first and smallest of the line-up.



NO LAUGHING MATTER: The quality of the interior of the second generation Lexus IS is second to none complete with top of the range stereo, sat nav and rear parking TV monitor

Partridge endorsement can't knock Lexus' style

COMEDIAN Steve Coogan's odious Alan Partridge alter-ego was one 'endorsement' Lexus could have done without for its original IS model.

The young and image-conscious executive targeted by that car is the very opposite of Partridge, with his naff sheepskin coat and driving gloves.

But the Lexus rose above it and, despite the first generation car's lack of a diesel option, went on to give BMW, Mercedes and Audi a fright in a crucial sector of the market.

Lexus upped the ante for the second generation IS – launched in 2005 and priced from £22,015 – by adding a diesel and creating an even more harmonious and well-made design with a fiery BMW M3-basher in the form of the IS-F V8.

The quality of interior materials also reached new heights while it has one of the best audio packages as standard – 13 speakers plus in-dash six-disc CD changer and a possible upgrade to a Mark Levinson system with DVD plus surround sound as well as sat nav

ROAD TEST LEXUS IS

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

and rear parking TV monitor.

Our test car was the IS220d Sport; a sensible choice with its lively yet frugal 175bhp turbodiesel and an engaging drive thanks to the Sport's chassis management system, delivering high levels of grip and poise even on winding and poorly-surfaced country roads.

It is shaded by the respected BMW 3-Series, but makes up with a more comfortable ride to compete more directly with the all-new Mercedes C-Class.

I was less impressed by the engine; it is decent enough, but does not threaten smooth equivalents in the ubiquitous Beemer, Audi A4 or Merc line-ups.

By now, you may suspect I'm closing in on a damning jack of all trades, master of none verdict, but the Lexus is better than that.

It is actually near the top of the pile in all departments and there are two further factors in its favour: distinctive high-shouldered styling with sharply angled front and rear lights and the Lexus ownership experience.

The latter is the feel-good factor that has made the brand the consistent number one in customer satisfaction surveys.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BUDGETMOTORS

MOTORING is being squeezed tight by the recession so it is not just first and old timers chasing used city car buys. These baby cars not only deliver excellent savings, but the compromises are nothing like they used to be; all three (or five – see later) of our chosen bargains are bang up-to-date, drive well, should be reliable and come with a good basic spec. This modest line-up is also relatively spacious and flexible inside, despite compact on-road 'footprints' and should also be cheap to tax and insure.

carsforkent.co.uk

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S baby was deservedly European Car of the Year in 2004. It shows that a space efficient interior need not go with a dull utilitarian exterior – the Panda could function as a van, but looks far more interesting. The distinctive five-door Italian is also fun to drive and cheap to insure, tax and fuel, yet features cutting-edge technology. A lively turbodiesel option – averaging more than 65mpg – rugged 4x4 version and hot 100hp model add to the line-up's attractions.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA AYGO/CITROEN C1/PEUGEOT 107



TOYOTA masterminded this attractive trio of city cars built at a new Czech production facility, but the Aygo's Citroën and Peugeot sisters have been just as successful. The three and five-door cars feature powerful yet economical three-cylinder petrol engines without impossibly slow acceleration or poor motorway ability. Functional and relatively spacious interiors make them pleasing to ride, while their compact dimensions belie a EuroNCAP four-star safety rating.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

KIA PICANTO



FROM majoring on value and very little else, Korea's Kia has become one of the fastest growing car brands in the UK by adding design and customer appeal to its virtues. The five-door Picanto city car highlights this advance with its cheeky looks and generous spec; standard kit includes steering wheel adjustment, remote central locking, ABS, front electric windows, split folding seats and a radio/CD player. Insurance is also cheap and both engine options average well over 50mpg.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Windows, ABS,
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3x1
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ALFA ROMEO

146 T1, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. thic car is a 2 owner from new with full service history, it has the 2.0i engine which produces 150bhp, along with a red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtney Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

147, Tspark 16v Lusso 5dr, av530ee, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 14" alloys, red, 53000 miles, £3699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, 2003, abs air conditioning alloy wheels board computer cd player side airbag driver and passenger steering wheel with radio control tilttable steering wheel, blue, 29277 miles, £6650, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

A4, 1.8T S Line Saloon 4d 1781cc (2004), m40thk, climate control, alloy wheels, remote locking, height adjustable driver's seat, height adjustable steering wheel, front & side airbags, balck metallic, 88600 miles, £10995, E-SSURED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9tdi 130 se estate, 2003, blue m with grey cloth, 67000 miles, £8950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 318i SE, 1f52 bfp, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear headrests, full leather, power steering, parking sensor, centre armrest, traction control, twin air bags, side air bags, cruise control, trip computer, air conditioning, climate control, radio cassette, multi-disc cd player, abs, auto-dip rearview, alloy wheels, silver, 73600 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, LT, hu58xc, 15" alloys, silver, 1900 miles, £8995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

AVEO, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection cd player central locking passenger airbag power steering radio tilttable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £8145, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 5dr, cv071ke, central locking, immobiliser, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, abs, cd player, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 3000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3, 1.4i SX 5dr, 2005, 1.4i sx 5dr hatch, red, 20000 miles, £5495, Wilmothos Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4 HDi Rhythm 5dr, 2008, 1.4 hdi rhythm 5dr diesel hatch, blue, 5000 miles, £8995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i 16V Exclusive 5dr Sensodrive, 2005, 1.6i 16v exclusive 5dr sensodrive hatch, blue, 25780 miles, £6495, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i 16V Cachet 5dr, 2008, 1.4i 16v cachet 5dr hatch special edition, blue, 5000 miles, £8995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4HDi Desire Hatchback 5d 1398cc, 54/2005, a/con remote c/locking radio/cd player electric windows abs pas, metallic silver, 15, 000 miles, £5495, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch Special Edition, sd05pnk, pas, abs, air, conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, steel wheels, isofix child seat anchor points, folding rear seats, audio remote control, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, cloth seat trim, front head restraints, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, silver, 24700 miles, £4995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i 16V Cachet 5dr, 2008, 1.4i 16v cachet 5dr hatch special edition, arctic steel, 1000 miles, £8995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, Sporting 16v 3dr, gJ03ygr, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, cd player, stereo, 14" alloys, yellow, 49000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Active 3dr, wp02cb, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, radio, black, 59000 miles, £2499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

PUNTO, ELX 16V, 2000, met green, 0 miles, £2495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Active 1.2, 2003, silver, 45000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active 3dr (2003 - 2006), 20/12/2005, red, 4390 miles, £7550, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 16V Dynamic 5dr (2003 - 2005), 14/09/2005, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 12791 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active, 2004, insurance group 3 abs body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag front steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer blue, 39000 miles, £3489, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 16v Dynamic 5dr Auto, gF05 vkr, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, grey, 26100 miles, £4495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.9D, 2000, red, 31952 miles, £1995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Sporting 16v, 2003, met red, 55000 miles, £4195, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, LX 16v 5dr, ax52 gtz, air conditioning, cd player, radio, electric front windows, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, red, 25700 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto (Climate Pack), 24/03/2005, abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 26000 miles, £7000, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5dr, 15/11/2005, silver, 44700 miles, £7000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 TDCi Ghia 5dr (Euro 4) (2005 - 2007), 30/06/2008, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 3689 miles, £13702, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 FFV Zetec 5dr (2008 -), 15/04/2008, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 9880 miles, £10500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 3dr (Climate pack) (2005 - 2007), 30/04/2007, black, 26000 miles, £7400, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec (2003) 5-Dr hatchback 1.8i 16v (-), 20/12/2007, power steering immobiliser electric windows, red, 12450 miles, £10765, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr (2008 -), 30/06/2008, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 12063 miles, £13702, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Ghia 5dr (2005 - 2007), 29/11/2005, silver, 42755 miles, £5749, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 LX 5dr Auto (2005 - 2007), 27/04/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 20386 miles, £7000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 TDCi 2.5dr (2005 - 2005), 30/06/2005, cd player immobiliser electric windows, blue, 66895 miles, £5500, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 2.1 4, 2003, pepper red, 38819 miles, £4995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Zetec 5dr (Climate) (2005 -), 19/01/2006, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, purple, 30162 miles, £6000, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 1 5dr Auto (2002 - 2005), 09/07/2007, cd player abs alarm power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 16780 miles, £7800, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto (Climate) (2005 -), 17/10/2007, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 7540 miles, £8500, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Style 5dr (Climate), 31/10/2005, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, green, 29175 miles, £5500, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto (Climate) (2005 -), 25/11/2005, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 10642 miles, £7000, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 TDCi Zetec 5dr (Climate) (2005 -), 13/05/2008, cd player, blue, 3274 miles, £10500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 1.9 TD Ghia 5dr [115 PS] (2000 - 2006), 07/10/2003, silver, 49367 miles, £8000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style [70] 3dr (2002 -), 31/10/2006, abs, black, 17859 miles, £4700, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

HONDA

JAZZ, Dsi SE 5dr, gy08upg, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, height adjustable seat, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, air bag, isofix, multiple airbags, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, 15" alloys, grey, 1800 miles, £1095, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 i-DSi SE, gJ57ksf, cloth, new blue fabric, driver's seat height adjustment, electric adjustable and heated door mirrors, low fuel warning light, emergency brake assist, digital fuel consumption display, digital odometer (trip), electronic brakeforce distribution (ebd), dual side srs airbags, anti-lock braking system (abs), digital clock (built into audio system), body colour bumpers, internally adjustable headlight height, high level rear brake light, power assisted steering, front electric windows, pollen filter, front head restraints, storm silver metallic, 7612 miles, £8995.000, Barretts Honda, Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, 2.7 Twin Turbo Diesel SE, gn54wvy, leather, champagne, reverse park control, wood/leather wheel, 60/40 split folding rear seat, alloy wheels, auto-dimming mirrors, automatic climate control, cd tuner, cruise control, cupholders, drivers airbag, dynamic stability control, electric heated door mirrors, electric seats, electric steering column, electrochromic mirrors, electrochromic mirror, electronic park brake, foldback headlamp levelling, heated rear window, slate, 60500 miles, £9990.0000, Barretts Jaguar (Canterbury), Canterbury, 0845 3709766 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDi LX Diesel, 2005, black, 15000 miles, £4995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

CCARENS, SX 5-Seats 5dr, ao51 kwx, central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, radio cassette, twin air bags, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, champagne, 46200 miles, £2495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MAZDA, 6, Ts 5dr, ao06bxw, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, cd player, electric front windows, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, red, 14000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MAZDA, 6, Ts 5dr, oy07okh, 15" alloys, blue, 13000 miles, £3945, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MPV, TD, ao05 bww, air conditioning, front fog lamps, abs, power steering, traction control, electric front windows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, cd player, radio, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, centre armrest, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, twin air bags, curtain airbags, remote central locking, remote alarm, alloy wheels, silver, 44200 miles, £6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, abs, multiple

airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, cruise control, alloy wheels, blue, 2000 miles, £9995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

A CLASS, Classic LWB, lK02oij, silver, 49000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 door Classic SE, 2008, atoll blue metallic, 11328 miles, £10998, Mercedes-Benz of Canterbury, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 door Avantgarde SE, 2008, mountain grey metallic, 5000 miles, £15800, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 door Classic SE, 2009, mistral blue, 2000 miles, £16450, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 doorClassic SE, 2009, cosmos black metallic, 2100 miles, £17000, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 doorElegance SE, 2008, saturn red metallic, 10247 miles, £13200, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A170, Avantgarde SE Manual 5 DR Avantgarde SE, 2006, cosmos black metallic, 31609 miles, £4989, Mercedes-Benz of Canterbury, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A170, Avantgarde SE Automatic, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 3353 miles, £14989, Mercedes-Benz of Ashford, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A170, Classic SE Automatic, 2008, polar silver metallic, 3325 miles, £13994, Mercedes-Benz of Ashford, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, Elegance SE 5 Door, 2005, dune gold metallic, 37144 miles £8994, Mercedes-Benz of Ashford, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, Avantgarde SE Automatic, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 3318 miles, £15494, Mercedes-Benz of Ashford, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, Classic SE Manual 5 DR Classic SE, 2006, polar silver metallic, 43309 miles, £8250, Mercedes-Benz of Tonbridge, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

307, S Coupe Cabriolet, 5055314, 16" alloys, blue, 5000 miles, £10995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

307, S 5dr, eg07cdo, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, black, 6000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

406 Saloon Turbo Diesel, 02 (51) 806, lx hdi, 2001, silver, 87000 miles, £4195, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

807, 2.0 GLX 7-seater, 2003, silver with grey high velour, 48000 miles, £6995, UM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.2 16V Dynamique, 2004, silver, 18000 miles, £5295, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

CLIO, New Clio Dynamique S 1.4 3dr, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1400 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, tempst, 8000 miles, £6995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

CLIO, Expression 1.2 3dr, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, extreme blue, 25400 miles, £5295, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

CLIO, Expression 1.4 5dr, 2006, trim: cloth engine size: 1400 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, tempst, 18000 miles, £6995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

CLIO, Exreme 1.2 3d, 2007, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, black, 8358 miles, £7299, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

CLIO, Campus 1.2 3dr, 2006, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, mercury, 25000 miles, £5695, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

CLIO, Dynamique 1.2 3dr, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, mercury, 53000 miles, £4495, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

CLIO, Rush 1.2, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, black, 14500 miles, £4995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

SUPRA, [no trim], 1992, very good condition, regularly serviced, mechanic owner, red, 180000 miles, £1800, 07523706228 (PRIVATE)

AVENSIS T3, 2004 (54), 04 (54) toyota avensis t3-x 4-d 2.0 turbo diesel, 5 door hatch, stunning metallic silver coachwork with contrasting black fleck trim, traction control, air conditioning with climate control, original cd hi-fi etc, etc. steel silver grey, £6695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

AYGO, 1.0 VVT-i + 3dr, 07/11/2005, driver airbag power steering electric windows, red, 16036 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, 1.7 CDTi, wr55kmv, abs, cd player, white, 38000 miles, £3495, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.7 CDTi LS, 3220182, remote central locking, air conditioning, cd player, sat nav, white, 56000 miles, £4245, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

ASTRA, Design 5dr, immobiliser, remote central locking, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, 5000 miles, £8495, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

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Quick-clear Heated Windscreen, 15" Multi-Spoke Alloy Wheels, Anti-Lock Braking System, Body Coloured Bumpers, Privacy Glass, ISOFIX

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit
£10,795	£1,201.81	£9,593.61
36 Monthly Payments	Final payment at end of period if you wish to own the vehicle	
£199	£4,040	
Total Charge For Credit	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable
£1,620.81	£10	£12,415.81

Typical 7.9% APR

Based on 12,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charged at 6 pence per mile.

The all new **FordFiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr**

5* NCAP Safety Rating Quick-Clear Heated Windscreen 16" 7-Spoke Alloy Wheels Leather Steering Wheel Remote Audio Controls MP3 Socket

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit
£9,295	£1,183.89	£8,111.11
24 Monthly Payments	Final payment at end of period if you wish to own the vehicle	
£179	£4,431	
Total Charge For Credit	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable
£625.89	£10	£9,920.89

4.9% APR

Based on 12,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charged at 6 pence per mile.

Call up, Call in, or visit us @ www.invictamotors.com

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Orbital Park, Ashford TN24 0HT
Tel: 0844 499 2171

Margate Road, Westwood Thanet CT12 6SJ
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TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040 **FAX US ON:** 01303 817004

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- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
- PR, MEDIA, JOURNALISM
- PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES
- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 44-47

SUPPORT STAFF AND TEAM LEADERS

Required for our autism specific service in Folkestone. NVQ qualification preferred although not essential.

Please call Tom on 01303 251618/01303 259561 for more details. Salary £6 + per hour.



Estate Agents - Exciting opportunities

We are looking for ambitious, sales driven, experienced estate agents at senior negotiator/sales manager level for our fast track development programme - interested?

For further details please contact:
Keith Knight Managing Director, Freeman Forman
Tel. 01435 867258 or email: keith.knight@freemanforman.co.uk
Freeman Forman is an equal opportunities employer and part of Countrywide plc.

Night Carer needed

For 2 nights (Tues & Fri)
8pm - 8am
NVQ2 preferred
Please contact Mandy
Tel: 01304 823935

A2 CABS LTD Full & Part Time TAXI DRIVER'S Required

Please contact
Elaine
01795 431500

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic person to join our team of Control Room Operators who assist in the running of a 24hr Vehicle Breakdown, Recovery and Transportation Company. A knowledge of the industry would be an advantage, but it is essential to have a good telephone manner, common sense and an ability to think logically under pressure.

Apply in writing, including a CV to:
Personnel Director, Eclipse Recovery Services Ltd,
The Warren, Ratling Road, Ratling,
Canterbury, Kent CT3 3BD

Or call 01304 843011 for an Application Form.

Closing date: 12th March 2009

CLEANING SUPERVISOR

required for Dover port.
Mon-Fri 0445-0630.
Own vehicle to transport 4 staff to quayside essential. £20 per shift.

Please call
02380 742826
quoting ref. 206

Campaigns Manager (Web)

£26,000 DOE
Visit Kent is the official tourism marketing body for Kent. We are a public / private sector partnership with over 80 stakeholders supporting Kent's £2.5bn visitor economy.

We are seeking an energetic and experienced Web Manager to join the marketing team based in Canterbury. Working as part of a small team, you need website management and development experience to lead on our web and online marketing activity. A passion for Kent and enthusiasm for destination marketing are essential.

Visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk for more details of the position and application details, or contact Nina Dietrich on 01227 862787 or nina.dietrich@visitkent.co.uk



Scott Care Ltd is expanding its current services and has the following vacancies:

Care Worker: To assist service users living in their own homes in Herne Bay, Canterbury & Whitstable areas. Full time to include mornings, evenings and alternate weekends. Part time evenings and weekends. Experience not essential as full training supplied. Mileage allowance paid.

Team Leader: To lead a team of care workers in the Herne Bay and/or Medway areas. Duties will include care planning, assessments, supervisions, spot checks etc. Participation on the On Call Rota 1 week in 5. Experience preferred but might suit an experienced carer wishing to further their career.

Car & mobile phone essential for both positions.

Phone 01227 711011 Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm only
www.scottcare.co.uk

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IS AN ECITB APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU?

Return your application by 27th March and you could be invited to an aptitude testing day.

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WED 29TH APRIL 2009
THURS 30TH APRIL 2009

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Primary Care based Psychological Therapists

£21,244 - £27,492

PART TIME WORK AVAILABLE (MINIMUM 18.5 HOURS)
BASED ASHFORD

Locum and Bank Psychological Therapists LOCALITIES ACROSS KENT

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. We currently require additional experienced psychological therapists to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices.

For Ashford based roles, the number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the requirements of the service.

We are also looking for therapists to join our locum/bank list for short term therapeutic work across Kent.

We provide a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings, effective administration, and opportunities for further training and career development.

Applicants will be required to be qualified to a minimum of Diploma level. A knowledge of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is highly desirable and you should be eligible for BACP accreditation and/or UKCP registration. Providing focused, short term interventions, you're equally at home working independently or as part of a team.

For an informal discussion of the above posts please contact David Hayter, Operations Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01795 590212.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 552.

Closing date: Monday 9 March 2009.

Interview date: TBA.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



CPRE Kent Student Project Coordinator

- 6 months, Voluntary Basis, Expenses Paid

Are you passionate about safeguarding Kent's countryside?

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a dynamic, energetic and creative communicator to fill this volunteer position. You will develop and implement an ongoing project which will raise the profile of CPRE Kent amongst the younger generation, in particular students in Kent.

You will have:

- A good understanding of students and young people
- Good interpersonal and influencing skills
- A strong commitment to the aims and objectives of CPRE
- Understanding of the operation of charities and the voluntary sector

To find out more about the work we do visit our website www.cprekent.org.uk.

For an informal discussion please call CPRE Kent on 01303 815180 or email info@cprekent.org.uk.
Registered charity number 1092012

HMYOI ROCHESTER >

EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.



FIRE SAFETY TECHNICIAN

£22,041 - £24,113

HMYOI Rochester is a closed institution housing around 757 young offenders on the outskirts of Rochester.

We need an Industrial Grade 1 Pattern B Fire Technician to carry out a variety of tasks ranging from advising on Fire Safety, inspecting equipment and carrying out fire risk assessments to delivering fire training, maintaining up-to-date records and preparing regular reports on Fire and related issues.

You will also evaluate local contingency plans for fire emergencies. Your IOSH Managing Safely qualification will be supported by a current Fire Extinguisher Trades Association Certificate and, ideally, experience in a prison fire safety environment. Additionally you will hold [or be keen to work towards] a NEBOSH National General Certificate.

Excellent benefits include 25 days' holiday and opportunities to develop into a management role.

For an application form and detailed information pack please contact Belinda Lyttle, Kent, Sussex & South Central Recruitment Team, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3PZ. Tel: 01634 673110. Email: kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmprisons.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 2 March 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.



DOVER IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE >

EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.



INDUSTRIAL GRADE 3 CATERER

£19,851 RISING TO £21,074 PA

With more than 50,000 staff, the Prison Service recognises the importance of achieving through people. There couldn't be a more exciting time to join us, as we implement ambitious modernisation plans throughout our operations.

Dover Immigration Removal Centre provides secure but humane accommodation for appellant and failed male asylum seekers aged over 18. The regime offers as much freedom of movement and association as possible and encourages detainees to make the most productive use of their time whilst respecting their dignity and right to individual expression.

We need a positive, flexible person to help ensure the efficient running of our catering service. This will include everything from supervising kitchen assistants, training detainees and managing stock to ensuring food production meets health, safety and PSO 5000 requirements. You may also be expected to work a minimum of alternative weekends.

To qualify you will need a City & Guilds 706/1 & 2 or NVQ Level 1 & 2 equivalent together with an Intermediate Food Hygiene and Safety certificate. A knowledge of ethnic cooking and experience of working in an industrial kitchen would both be welcomed. Full training will be provided, so you should be keen to develop your qualifications and skills.

All candidates must be British or Commonwealth Citizens, British Protected Persons or EEA Nationals.

To apply, please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmprisons.gov.uk or visit our website www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 27 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.



CUMBRIA HOUSE CARE HOME

has the following vacancies

1 x FULL TIME CARER
1 x PART TIME CARER

NVQ Level 2 preferred and experience in care preferred.

Please contact Julia Carter on 01303 254019
Both posts are subject to CRB disclosure.



Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher via the GTP route, which currently pays £15,113 during training?

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University, is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2009 in Art Design & Technology Music Mathematics Science

Further details, including an application form, are available from the School's website, www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk or from Mike O'Shea,

e-mail: moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk
The closing date for applications is Friday, 27 March

Career Opportunities

.....
Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer



Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Caretaker

ref: 09/07

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to Town Centre

The closing date for the above post is Monday 2nd March 2009 at 12 noon



CLICK

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



CALL

01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



Director of Development

Salary: Circa £50,000 per annum
(more for an exceptional candidate)

The Kent Association of FE Corporations (KAFEC) is an innovative partnership of the seven FE colleges based in Kent & Medway. Formally established in 1994 its main purpose is to raise the profile and reputation of FE in Kent and Medway while continually driving up the quality of FE provision. Through collaborative working, mutual support and the sharing of best practice, KAFEC aims to influence the development of education and training for the benefit of all learners.

We are seeking to appoint a Director of Development to drive forward the implementation of our Key Strategic Priorities. The successful applicant will be both innovative and strategic in their thinking with a proven track record of working with partnerships and managing the successful delivery of externally funded projects. Positive and pro-active in response to the volume and complexity of your work you will have excellent communication skills, the ability to negotiate bids and contracts and must be extremely self-motivated.

The Chair of KAFEC is held by one of the seven colleges, for a fixed term of three years. The current Chair is Principal of MidKent College and the post holder will be based at MidKent College, until 31st July 2010. Thereafter, the post holder may be based at any one of the seven KAFEC colleges in Kent and Medway.

Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure and List 99 clearance.

For an informal discussion about this post please contact the Chair of KAFEC, Stephen Grix on 01634 884387, alternatively by e-mail: stephen.grix@midkent.ac.uk

To apply:

Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone: 01634 884511

For further information about KAFEC visit: www.kafec.org.uk

The closing date for the above post is Friday 27th February 2009



KAFEC is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under represented groups including black, minority, ethnic and disabled people.

ST WERBURGH MEDICAL PRACTICE

98 Bells Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9HU

PART TIME RECEPTIONIST REQUIRED

To cover maternity leave. Experienced preferred but not essential as training will be given. Basic knowledge of computers essential. Own transport needed as you will be required to work over 3 sites.
AM & PM sessions

25 HOURS PER WEEK

FOR APPLICATION FORM AND JOB DESCRIPTION

Please Telephone Mrs Julie Allen on: **01634 250523**Or Email: **julie.allen@nhs.net**
**Brampton Home Care are
looking for new and experienced
Carers**

to join their team in providing care and support
for those who still live in their own homes.

Hours are flexible, full training is given, all
uniforms provided. Car driver is essential.

For an informal chat or to apply for an
application pack please contact Alison or Sara on
01303 272348.

All post's are subject to successful completion of
Enhanced Disclosure.

Swale Carers Centre

PROMOTING, SUPPORTING AND
EMPOWERING CARERS OF ALL AGES

**Parent Carers Support Services Officer
Employment opportunity**

This is your opportunity to Promote, Support and Empower Carers of all ages and to become an integral part of an expanding, independent charity that has a well established solid foundation and which is held in high regard within the local community, voluntary and statutory sectors of Swale and beyond.

In partnership with East Kent Coastal PCT, we seek 2 innovative, enterprising people with a proven passion for developing and delivering Support Services to Vulnerable People and with an empathy and understanding of the needs, rights and issues facing Family Carers.

Working as part of our exemplary Family Support Services Team and reporting to the Chief Operations Officer, you will be responsible for the successful development, facilitation and delivery of this essential new initiative to provide advice, advocacy, information, emotional support and respite activities to those families with children and young people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance residing primarily within the Swale District of Kent.

Salary: £18,250 Full-time, or pro-rata to part-time hours

+ Essential Car Users Allowance + Optional Pension Contributions

Hours: 1 x 37 Hrs Per Week, 1 x 22.5 Hrs Per Week

All hours to be worked flexibly to accommodate the needs of the service and will include some evening and weekend working

Contract: Initially 1 year, thereafter subject to funding

For further details and application pack, please contact Mrs S Hornby, Chief

Operations Officer 01795 583440 email sandie.swalecarers@iscali.co.uk

Closing date for receipts of completed applications: 18th February 2009

Interviews: 23rd February 2009 - Start Date: 30th March 2009

**Children's Worker, Ashford****Women's Refuge x2**

Part-Time • 17,000 pro rata

The Rising Sun Domestic Violence Project has secured 1 year's funding for 2 part-time children's workers to work with children living in Ashford Refuge. The posts are each 15 1/2 hours per week and are to be worked together. Each person will work 2 mornings and 3 after school sessions offering support, mentoring and preschool play sessions. We are looking for someone with an NVQ level 2 or above in childcare. Experience of working with children in an appropriate setting (school; playgroup; nursery etc) an advantage as is an interest in supporting children who have experienced living with Domestic Abuse. An enhanced CRB check is required. Only women need apply - Exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 7 (2) (e).

Please E-mail: **emma@rsdvp.co.uk** for an application form.
Closing date Friday February 6th. Interview date to be arranged.



Now recruiting:

**Skilled Technician or
Semi-Skilled Technician**

At our Maidstone Branch

To apply please contact: **Jim** on **01622 695 696**
or on line at **www.mrlutch.com**

**Director of Sales
Global Licensing**

*Oil Drum is an award winning environmental technology company
with its head office at the University of Kent, Canterbury.*

Following the success of our hydrogen based fuel saving technology in the UK, we have created a new position within the company responsible for developing global sales opportunities.

The successful candidate will take responsibility for identifying prospects in various territories around the globe, and will then work closely with the Oil Drum team to bring these opportunities to a successful conclusion.

Previous sales experience may assist, but is not essential. Candidates must be highly motivated and demonstrate a strong desire to succeed. This is a demanding position and as a result an excellent remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.

For more information on Oil Drum please visit

www.save-fuel.co.uk

Please send your CV either by post to
**Oil Drum Limited, Canterbury Enterprise Hub,
UNIVERSITY OF KENT, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NJ,**
or email to: **darryl@save-fuel.co.uk** only.
Please do not telephone. No agencies.

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer



Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Cleaning/Security/Public Services/Health & Safety/Environmental Health	06/122
37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum	
Coordinator Animal Care and Land Based Studies	08/156
37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum	
Lecturer Beauty and Holistic Therapies	06/142
27.75 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Key Skills Media	06/67
37 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum	
Lecturer Public Services	08/145
37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum	
Lecturer Public Services	06/92
37 hrs or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum (pro rata for part time posts)	
Lecturer Health & Social Care	L90
18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Mechanical Engineering	06/59
18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Supply NVQ Assessors:	S/NVQ/ASS
Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum	
Business	
Administration	
Customer Services	
Team Leading	
Trainer Demonstrator Automotive Engineering	08/67
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum	
Trainer Demonstrator Fabrication and Welding	TD3
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum	
Supply Trainer Demonstrator Stage Lighting and Scenic Construction Crafts	S/TD
Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum	
Supply Trainer Demonstrator Mechanical	S/TD/MEC
Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum	

For an information pack please visit **www.canterburycollege.ac.uk** or
call the Human Resources Office on **01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)**
quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 2nd March 2009 at 12 noon

**CLICK****www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies****CALL****01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)**

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills**Assessors (Variable Hours)**

Ref: S2167

Folkestone/Ashford/Dover

Closing date: 06/03/09

With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 10,000 students of all ages. We are currently recruiting for Assessors in all vocational areas including Catering, Construction, Motor Vehicle, Engineering, Business Administration and Customer Care.

Main duties include assessing workplace students up to NVQ Level 3 and Key Skills Level 2, supporting and guiding candidates in portfolio building, 'on' and 'off-the-job' training for Work Based Training programmes, and acting as a mentor to students. You will hold a minimum of NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in your relevant specialism, and the A1 Assessor Award or equivalent (formally D32/33) as well as having a minimum of three years recent and relevant experience in your field.

For further information please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: **humanresources@southkent.ac.uk** or visit **www.southkent.ac.uk**. Please submit a CV in the first instance, with a covering letter detailing which specialism you are interested in applying for.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.


South Kent College
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE
**Paint a
brighter future
for yourself**

west kent college

**Lecturer in Painting/
Decorating/Tiling**
£23,525 - £32,343
+ excellent benefits

Already one of the most successful colleges in the south east, our construction team is now building on its strong record of achievement. With new tiling and painting & decorating courses in the pipeline, plus increasing student numbers, it's the perfect time to join this growing and diversifying department.

As well as teaching at both Entry Level 3 and Level 2, you'll act as course leader - making a key contribution to our development. So this is a great opportunity to put your ideas to work as you help us train a multi-skilled workforce to meet the needs of today's industry.

Excellent practical knowledge and proven teaching experience (ideally gained in a college or private training organisation) are essential. In return, there are superb benefits including generous annual leave, final salary pension, flexible working options, private health plan and more.

**If it's time to take your career to another level, apply online
at **www.wkc.ac.uk** Alternatively call **01732 376511** or email
hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk for more information. Please quote ref: **KOS02****



BeneCare Fostering

GENUINE OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

- CAN YOU PROVIDE A SAFE AND CARING HOME FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN?
- ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED CARER LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE OR CHANGE?

BENECARE OFFERS

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We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information.

Please contact: 01732 746697 or Email: info@benecarefostering.co.uk
Web: www.benecarefostering.co.uk

When Alice took early retirement she missed talking to the parents and children at school and felt her experiences, both as a teacher and grandparent were being wasted.

Then Alice joined a Home-Start Induction Programme and now visits families in their own homes and is able to use her own experiences to help them.

If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer with Home-Start Sittingbourne & Sheppey, please phone 01795 429007 or visit our web site http://home.btconnect.com/Home-Start_Swale to find out about our next Induction Programme.

B.G.D. Specialist Cars

RANGE ROAD, IND. EST., HYTHE

Service/General Manager

required to replace retiring Dealer Principal.

The ideal person should be conversant with the service and repair of motor vehicles and be able to maintain high standards of repair, communicate with customers, suppliers and staff.

This position commands a starting salary of **£35,000** per annum with fringe benefits

Please contact:
Mr Musson - Tel: 01303 264700

Palatine Precision Ltd.
have immediate vacancies for :

- **1 x CENTRE LATHE TURNER**
- **1 x MILLING MACHINE OPERATOR & CENTRE LATHE TURNER**

Preferably apprenticeship trained/ time served / tool-making background, capable of working to close tolerances under own initiative.

Production of low volume stainless steel components. CNC experience an advantage. (Rate negotiable/dependant upon relevant experience).

For further information, please contact :
Kevin Woolcomb (Operations Manager)
Tel : 01634 684571

Application form download from
'Vacancies' menu option:
www.palatineprecision.co.uk

Palatine Precision Ltd, 45 Laker Road, Airport Industrial Estate, Rochester, Kent ME1 3QX

SUPPLY & PERMANENT TEACHING STAFF REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE KENT AREA

We are now recruiting for April & September 2009

Excellent rates of pay!

Are you looking to work for innovative schools throughout the Kent area, where your input could really make a difference? Are you a dedicated, motivated and ambitious individual looking to teach in a student focused environment? If you have either a PGCE, Qualified Teacher Status or have had experience working in further education and would like more information regarding these vacancies then contact us today!

Call Anna on 01843 604890 or Clare on 01227 762233
email anna@morganjones.net or clare@morganjones.net

We require part time or full time

COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

for Ashford and the Marsh

Applicants must have their own vehicle

We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends

We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

Please call 01797 361889
E.mail countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk
Fax No. 01797 367493

ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Speech and Language Therapist to work with Children with Challenging behaviours

We require a Speech Therapist to join our multi-disciplinary team of professionals who are committed to promote good outcomes for Looked after Children.

Applicants will be registered with the HPC and RCSLT

Experience of working with clients with Learning Disabilities beneficial.

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:
Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ Telephone: 01843 823762

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For more detailed information about the role and for an application pack please call 01622 677055 or email kpaenquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk
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For further information please contact Ruth Ford, Inclusion Coordinator on 01227 284528. Ref: CFE/09/0076.

Closing date: Midday, 12th March 2009.
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These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Closing date: Midday, 6th March 2009.
Interview date: 27th March 2009.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mentors will help you make the right moves

HERNE Bay businessman Andy Harris decided to expand his company, so he turned to C4B (Canterbury For Business) for a Support4Business mentor to help him make the next move.

As owner-manager of Custwin, a website profitability consultancy which works with clients across the UK, he works more or less single-handed from home, and his mentor Tim Bentley helped him out.

A list of Support4Business mentors can be viewed at www.canterbury4business.co.uk.

Small business needs more government help

GOVERNMENT action to stimulate the economy is not working, says the Federation of Small Businesses, which has 7,000 county members.

A member survey revealed recent VAT cuts, bank lending guarantees and pledges on payment practices have had no impact.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "There's more to be done by Government and banks to ensure businesses survive. There is an avalanche of stumbling blocks stopping this vital sector from surviving and recovering."

Workshops will get you up to date with the law

INTERACTIVE workshops and talks aimed at giving employers an understanding of employment law are being presented by two regional law firms.

Furley Page, in association with Kent Invicta Chamber, will be holding workshops at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel and Country Club, Maidstone. Bookings can be made by calling 01233 503838 or at www.kentinvtachamber.co.uk

Also, Brachers along with the Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce, is holding workshops at Sittingbourne's Kent Science Park. Call 01622 690691.

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Julie Maddocks asks: "In business, is small really beautiful?" Search 'crunch'

Fast food retailers are thriving in these slow economic times

■ BY TONY PATEY

ECONOMIC downturns can have some unpredictable results – as this current recession is proving.

In the 1970s the quadrupling of the price of oil put the previously backwater subject of economics on the map, and words such as 'inflation' and 'money supply' for the first time became everyday phrases.

And in the early 90s people realised that having a massive mortgage was not necessarily the only answer to having a roof over their heads.

Some started renting and going in for alternative living such as moving on to houseboats – a trend being seen again today.

This time round we're also seeing a big change in the landscape of our high streets and urban areas – not just fascinating for economic geographers, but a decisive factor in whether or not more traditional shopkeepers will survive.

Budget supermarkets such as Lidl, Aldi, Asda and Morrisons have announced major expansion plans involving thousands of new jobs, and now take-away food giants are also making big strides.

McDonald's, KFC, Subway, Greggs bakers, and pizza empires Domino's and Pizza Hut have all said they've got plans to open more stores this year, again with thousands more new jobs. Subway alone is opening five outlets a week.

But there's an interesting marketing point. They're not just throwing open more doors, they're also taking a look at the whole visual



BIG MAC: McDonald's is having a branding makeover, this is the new outlet at Eureka Leisure Park in Ashford

impact of their shops and branding, trying to give potential customers a kind of comfortable feeling about shopping there.

Take McDonald's, for instance, and cast an eye over its new outlet being built at Eureka Leisure Park near junction nine of the M20 at Ashford.

Gone is the emphasis on the tall double yellow arches forming a massive 'M' that used to dominate entrances.

The branding is still there, but very low key. Its design is more retro and muted rather than brash, as Macs outlets used to be.

Perhaps they're trying to catch a change in eating habits which seem to be sweeping the nation as people watch their pennies and find they can eat a takeaway for just about the same as it would cost to cook at home.

And there's no washing-up.

McDonald's restaurants are doing a roaring trade and people who used to go to more expensive restaurants are often staying home and ordering takeaways.

Domino's says that since these customers are used to fairly big bills they tend to spend more than the average customer would.

Domino's chief executive Chris Moore said: "People are now spending more time at home. With all the drudgery and bad news out there they say 'Stuff it, I'm going to treat myself to a pizza and not wash up.'"

However, David Haslam, chairman of the National Obesity Forum, is concerned about the effect on the nation's diet and is calling on fastfood giants to spend their windfall profits on better standards and higher quality food.



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EMPHATIC: Mike Melford scored two tries as Canterbury romped to their biggest win of the season

Resurgent Canterbury land a few on the Chin

Chinnor 19 Canterbury 53

CANTERBURY ran in seven tries for their biggest league win of the season on Saturday which sent them back into National 3 South's top half.

It was a third straight win for Danny Vaughan's men, who are playing their best rugby of the season and are now just a point from breaking into the division's top five.

Chinnor went into the game in the bottom two, but a 10-10 draw at Merton Lane earlier in the season showed they

RUGBY

were still a threat. Canterbury seized control of the game early on and had it virtually won by the interval as they went in 32-7 ahead.

Tries from Mike Melford, Cristof Blom, Pat Sykes and Chris Hinkins ensured the visitors had already won a bonus point before the half-time whistle.

An excellent display by the forwards laid the foundations for a handsome victory and some of Canterbury's tries

from deep were spectacular.

The gulf between the sides widened in the second half with further scores from Melford, Luke Harding and Gert De Kock, who added six conversions and two penalties to finish with 23 points.

Chinnor enjoyed their best spell late in the game, scoring two tries. The second came with Hinkins and Chris Tytherleigh in the sin bin for technical offences.

On Saturday, Canterbury aim to win four successive league games for the first time this season when they host Bridgwater & Albion.

Hockey ladies surge back into contention

CANTERBURY ladies climbed back into the Premier Division's top four with a resounding victory away to Clifton on Saturday.

The city club sprinted into a three-goal lead early on thanks to strikes from Jenny Hall, Cindy Botha and Susie Row. Hall and Mel Clewlow made it 5-0 at the break and despite a brief fightback from the hosts, Susannah Townsend wrapped up a 6-2 victory late on.

In the Men's Conference East, Canterbury stayed third with a 5-4 win against Holcombe. They will hope to stay in touch at the top when they visit Chelmsford on Sunday, while the ladies host Poynton on Saturday.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson gives his views on supporters' internet message boards

Crusaders run ends with home defeat

KENT Crusaders' six-game winning streak came to an end on Saturday as they lost to Team Northumbria at home for the second time in three weeks.

The North East side knocked the Crusaders out of the Patron's Cup earlier this month and they were again too strong, winning the Division Two encounter 73-61.

The defeat saw them slip to fourth and with only three games of the regular season remaining, the best they can now realistically hope for is third.

Mads Olesen's side can climb back into the top three with a win at Leicester Warriors on Saturday.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



PACE CAMP: (l-r) Academy director Phil Relf with Matt Coles, Phil Edwards, Test legend Dennis Lillee, Warren Lee, Adam Ball, and an MRF Pace Foundation coach

Lillee putting Kent bowlers on the fast track to success

FOUR Kent pace bowlers will be hoping a masterclass from Australian Test legend Dennis Lillee at a top training camp in India will put them ahead of the rest as they prepare to dazzle county bosses this summer.

The pace quartet have just arrived back at St Lawrence after spending ten days at the world famous MRF pace bowling camp in Chennai.

Academy players Matt Coles, 18, who plays his cricket with Hartley Country Club and Adam Ball, 15, from Bexley were joined by development contract players Phil Edwards, 24, from Gore Court and Warren Lee, 21, from Blackheath.

The four had a chance to experience life as professional cricketers, work on developing their bowling technique and tactics, as well as

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

combating the intense Chennai heat.

Academy director Phil Relf, who led the group to India, felt the experience of working with a bowling legend such as Lillee will give the county's up and coming bowlers an insight into what is needed to become a top class cricketer.

He said: "The guys had access to grass wickets and Dennis Lillee on a one-to-one basis. It was a fantastic experience for them to be working under such a trained eye and you could see he was a guy who was very passionate about technique and fitness."

"He saw our guys on day one and within two balls, as well as without the use of video, his trained eye saw things that we spent time analysing on a video for a while. You tended to

see an impact with the ball coming out at a better pace and he was an interesting guy to listen to."

Matt Coles was one of the lucky beneficiaries on the trip. The medium pacer from Maidstone has been with the Academy for several years and the club will have to make a decision on his future this year.

He said: "It was an interesting experience and worthwhile because just to hear Dennis Lillee's thoughts on you and his knowledge of the game, was really good. He felt I had an old-style action but felt there was only a few things to work on which is all part of my long-term progression."

• **Martin van Jaarsveld looks to be winning his battle to be ready for the start of the season. The South African dislocated his shoulder and it was feared the 34-year-old would miss a substantial part of Kent's summer, but the latest reports indi-**

Fair cop as tired Oystermen are put away by the police

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Whitstable Town 0



Metropolitan Police 3



Forrester 45, Greenaway 61, Sargent 88

WHITSTABLE Town's punishing schedule finally caught up with them on Saturday as they were well beaten by title hopefuls Met Police at the Belmont.

The Oystermen have performed wonders in recent weeks to pull away from the relegation zone, but the fifth game on heavy pitches in a fortnight proved one too many.

Manager Marc Seager was disappointed to see his side's good run come to an end, but could not fault his players.

He said: "We've had three intense six-pointers against teams around us, plus Ashford Town [a 4-1 win].

"The lads have been fantastic but the games have taken a lot out of us. I sensed before the game everybody looked a bit tired. If we had scored the first goal it might have made the difference.

"I'm so proud of my players because we've



JADED: Jack Tanner evades a tackle but a tired Whitstable were second best on Saturday

got the results we needed, anything against the teams at the top is a bonus."

Seager named an unchanged side from last Tuesday's win against Ashford, one of Town's best performances of the season.

They were unable to recreate the same level of intensity, but held a powerful Met Police until first half-stoppage time, when Scott Forrester's free-kick deflected off Gary

Whitstable Town starting XI



Gess (Tanner 64), Neal (Cornhill 76)

Sayer and past a stranded Kevin Fewell.

It was a sucker punch just before the break, but Whitstable began the second half looking the side more likely to score. The spell did not last long, however, and James Greenaway made it 2-0 just after the hour mark.

Conceding a third goal two minutes from time was harsh on Town, who had worked hard for little reward.

Fortunately, the defeat made little difference to Whitstable's league position, with only one of the sides below them winning on Saturday.

They have a great chance to virtually guarantee their Ryman League status for next season when they visit a Crowborough side who have not picked up a single point from their last 16 games.

Young goalkeeper Dylan McVicker has moved on loan to Slade Green for a month to get some valuable match experience.

• **Tonight Whitstable host Ebbsfleet United in the Kent Senior Cup quarter-final. Kick-off is at 7.45pm.**

FOOTBALL



CUP EXIT: James Brooke in action as City lost tight game

City battle but it's not enough to stay in Challenge Shield

Hollands & Blair 2 Canterbury City 1

CANTERBURY City gave an encouraging performance against Premier Division opposition as they were narrowly edged out of the Kent Intermediate Challenge Shield.

City faced a string of problems before and during the quarter-final. Tony Jackson and Alex Hossick breaking down in the warm-up and full-back Sam Baker was forced off after 30 minutes with a calf injury.

The Gillingham side knocked City out of the Bill Manklow Inter-Regional Challenge Cup earlier in the season and were steely in mid-field and hard to break down at the back.

City were under pressure for a large part of the first half, but they carried an attacking threat of their own. First, Royston Gough forced a good save when attempting to lift the ball over the goalkeeper and the striker then connected with an overhead kick which was on target but was well saved.

The hosts went ahead after 55 minutes when Luke Lockhart gave away a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area. Hollands & Blair took it quickly, spreading the ball to Lee Preston, who drove it through the surprised defence.

Wayne Fittall got City back on level terms when he drove the ball across the face of goal. It may have been intended as a shot but Gough accepted it as a pass and fired in a deserved goal.

The game looked to be heading for extra-time but City were caught out by a quick attack down the right flank. The ball was swept across to Preston who had his first attempt blocked by Danny Wrench but he smacked in the rebound.

This Saturday, City are again in cup action as they look to reach the final of the Les Leckie Cup. The semi-final against Oakwood kicks off at Bridge at 2pm on Saturday.



ON TARGET: Luke Harvey (centre) scored twice for Bay

Bay breathe life back into season with win

FOOTBALL

Herne Bay 2 Slade Green 1

A BRACE from Luke Harvey saw Herne Bay recover from two demoralising defeats to bounce back into the Kent League Premier Division's top five.

The Bay skipper took his tally for the season to 11 goals before Slade Green pulled a goal back late on.

Bay's season looked to be petering out after elimination from the Kent Senior Trophy at the hands of VCD Athletic the previous weekend and losing 5-1 at league-leaders Hythe Town in midweek.

But with 12 games remaining before last Saturday, Bay can still finish in the top three.

Harvey put the hosts in front on 17 minutes. Neil Perkins had a goal disallowed for offside before the break, but the second goal did come, Harvey finishing a quick counter-attack in the 75th minute.

Former Bay player Shaun Maylon set up a tense finish with a goal five minutes from time, but Bay held on.

England call on Khan to fill injured Freddie's shoes

CRICKET

AMJAD Khan has been called up to the England squad as cover for the injured Andrew Flintoff.

Khan, 28, flew to the Caribbean from New Zealand last Thursday where he was part of the England Lions squad, together with Kent team-mates Rob Key and Joe Denly.

He has now been promoted to the full Test squad as cover for Flintoff who struggled in the drawn second Test with the West Indies as a result of a hip injury.

Khan took two early wickets for England in a two-day practice match against a Barbados Cricket Association President's XI on Sunday.

The Kent fast bowler will hope to impress captain Andrew Strauss ahead of the penultimate game of the series in Barbados on Thursday.

Kent coach Simon Willis said: "This is great news for both Amjad and Kent County Cricket Club. He has looked sharp in the nets and is in good physical shape. He totally deserves his call-up and I am confident that he will do well."

It's the second time Khan has been called up to the full England side after he was brought into the squad for the injured Ryan Sidebottom for the two Tests against India at the end of last year.

It has been a dramatic few months for the Danish-born seamer after having only returned to the Kent side midway through last summer.

Khan had spent 16 months on the sidelines, including missing the whole of the



STAND IN: Amjad Khan has been called up by England to replace Andrew Flintoff, who has a hip injury

2007 season, after suffering cruciate ligament damage while on tour with England A.

Khan was also called up to the one-day side as back up for the final two One-Day Internationals in India before the series was abandoned as a result of the terror attacks in Mumbai.

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Our buyers and sellers have open access to their files via the internet in order to monitor all progress

We offer Free Valuations and are happy to visit at a time that suits you, day or night including weekends!

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